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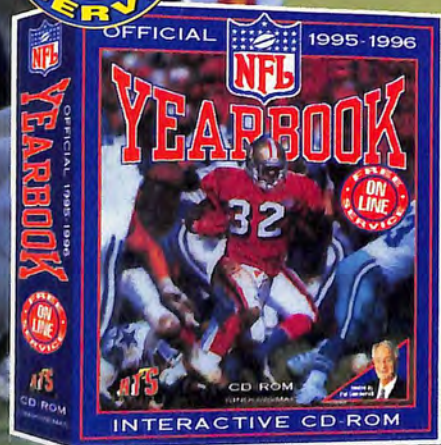


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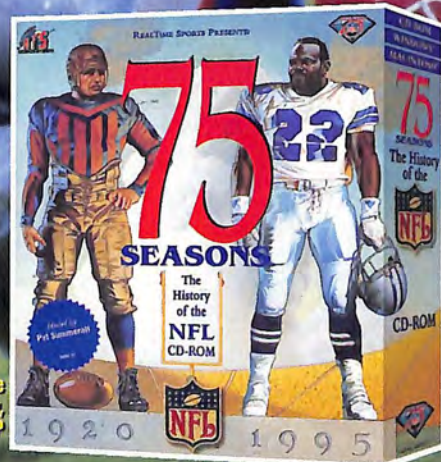
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Letter From the Editor

For a time last year, it seemed football was the only game in town. Brazil emerged from the international field and took home that other famous football trophy, the World Cup, in July. Baseball's clock stopped on August 12 when the major leaguers went on strike. The players finally did come back in April, but not before the World Series was canceled for the first time in 90 years. The 1994-95 National Hockey League season was put on ice for over three months before both sides in that labor dispute agreed to return in January. And by the time Michael Jordan traded in his No. 45 baseball jersey for a No. 45 (and then No. 23) tank top, the National Football League's 75th season was history.

These are heady times in the NFL, which needs no comeback story to regenerate itself, but has added two new teams for 1995: the Carolina Panthers (to the NFC West) and the Jacksonville Jaguars (to the AFC Central). Pro football named a baseball player, Deion Sanders, its defensive MVP. He went from the Cincinnati Reds to the San Francisco 49ers last fall, intercepted six passes and returned three of them for loud touchdowns, shut down Dallas's Alvin Harper in the NFC championship game, and capped his remarkable year with a Super Bowl ring. Sanders was the No. 1 free agent at this time a year ago, and the free-spending 49ers did some creative restructuring of their finances to fit him under the team's salary cap. But he had signed a one-year contract with them, making him the No. 1 free agent again this summer. Among the teams Sanders was giving consideration to this time around was Dallas. "He's shown he can step in and help with a playoff run," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. And Sanders could be the one player to swing the NFC title back to the Cowboys.

This could also be the year the AFC, with several teams on the verge of power, breaks its 11-game losing streak and wins the Super Bowl. The question is, which team? Time is running out for Miami's Dan Marino, who has waited since his second season (1984) to return to the Super Bowl. The Dolphins face a stiff challenge in the East from rising star Drew Bledsoe and the New England Patriots. San Diego pulled the plug on the Pittsburgh Steelers' plans for a Super Bowl video in the AFC title game last year. The Chargers will get competition within their own division from the Los Angeles Raiders this fall.

In our last edition, we projected quarterback Steve McNair of Alcorn State as the top choice in the 1995 NFL draft. We missed, but not by much, when the Houston Oilers took McNair with the No. 3 pick. Undaunted, we offer another sneak preview of the future stars of the NFL with a mock first round of the '96 draft.


Gerard Kavanagh



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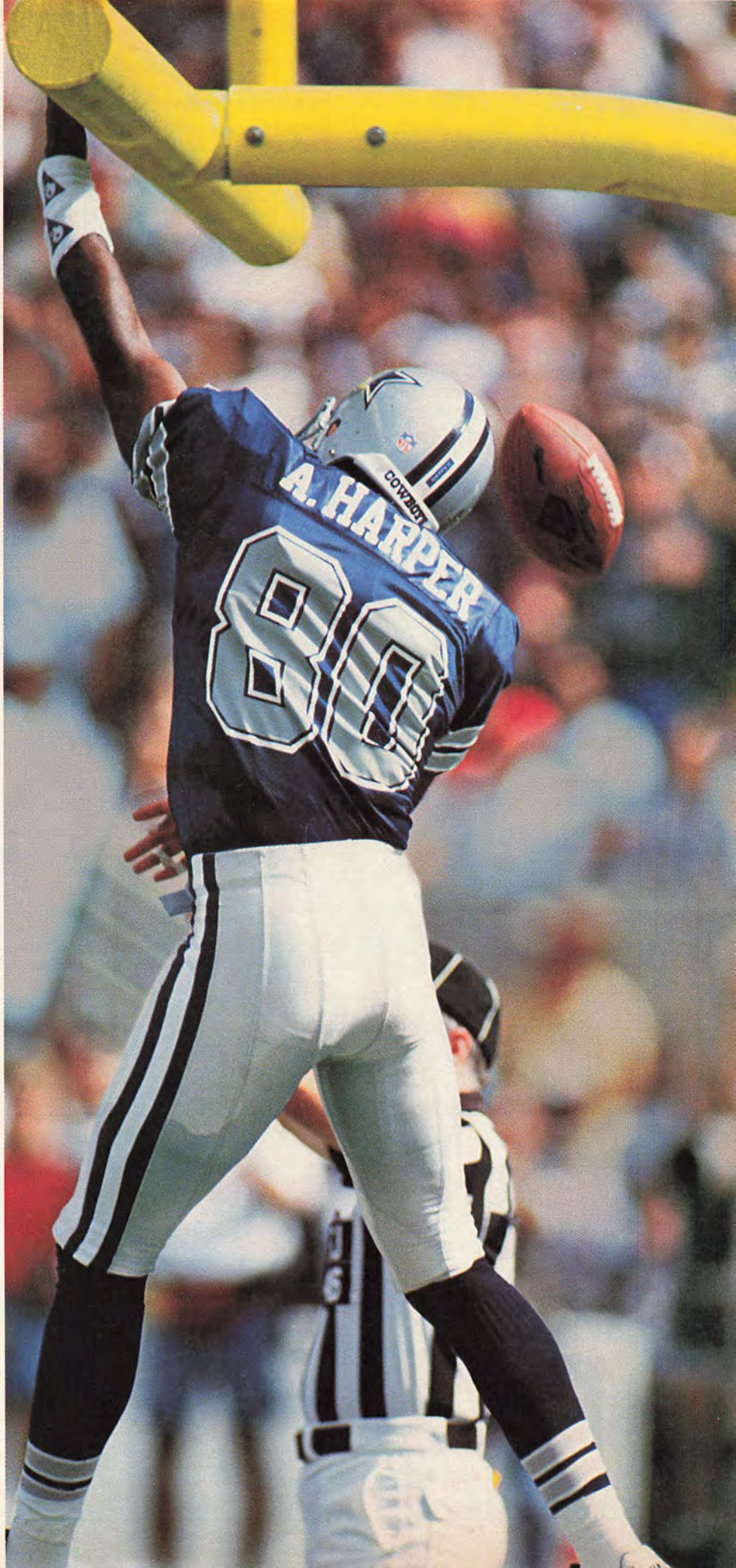
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07 Receivers <input type="checkbox"/> 1 A. MILLER, DEN 135 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 I. FRYAR, MIA 162 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 A. HARPER, TB 120 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 R. MOORE, NYJ 131 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 C. CARTER, MIN 160 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 F. BARNETT, PHI 137 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 C. PICKENS, CIN 167 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 H. ELLARD, WAS 169	08 Receivers <input type="checkbox"/> 1 B. PERRIMAN, DET 104 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 B. BLADES, SEA 128 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 M. TIMPSON, N.E. 110 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 M. SHERRARD, NYG 111 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 C. WILLIAMS, PHI 97 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 W. DAVIS, K.C. 107 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 H. JEFFRIES, HOU 108 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 T. MARTIN, S.D. 123	09 Receivers <input type="checkbox"/> 1 K. JACKSON, G.B. 102 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 E. GREENE, MIA 81 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 B. JONES, S.F. 112 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 J. MITCHELL, NYJ 94 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 B. COATES, N.E. 152 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 J. NOVACEK, DAL 67 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 SH. SHARPE, DEN 121 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 J. HARRIS, TB 48	10 Kickers <input type="checkbox"/> 1 C. BONIOL, DAL 114 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 D. BRIEN, S.F. 105 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 G. ANDERSON, PIT 104 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 J. JAEGER, RAI 97 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 J. CARNEY, S.D. 135 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 M. ANDERSEN, N.O. 116 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 F. REVEIZ, MIN 132 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 J. ELAM, DEN 119	11 Sacks <input type="checkbox"/> 1 B. SMITH, BUF 110 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 J. CROSS, MIA 105 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 K. GREENE, PIT 140 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 C. HALEY, DAL 135 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 L. O'NEAL, S.D. 125 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 R. RANDLE, MIN 135 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 W. MARTIN, N.O. 100 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 N. SMITH, K.C. 125	12 .. Interceptions <input type="checkbox"/> 1 D. SANDERS, S.F. 90 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 T. MCDANIEL, RAI 100 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 E. TURNER, CLE 110 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 R. BUCHANAN, IND 120 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 M. HANKS, S.F. 75 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 J. HASTY, NYJ 80 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 R. WOODSON, PIT 90 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 M. HURST, N.E. 90

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CAPSIZED!

THE 49ERS OVERWHELMED THEIR OPPONENTS BY DEALING WITH THE SALARY CAP

by **TIM COWLISHAW**

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Thirty minutes after San Francisco had won its fifth Super Bowl, there was so much to choose from in the tunnels beneath Joe Robbie Stadium. In one corner was the world's hottest quarterback. The NFL's all-time greatest receiver stood in another. And the most heavily marketed defensive back was holding court at yet another podium. So why were there so many reporters clustered in one corner around the small attorney in the suit when there were so many superstars to be heard from?

Because 1994 began the era of the salary cap in the National Football League. And 49ers president Carmen Policy manipulated, exploited, or just simply understood the cap better than his 27 competitors. The free-spending 49ers were supposed to be the team most likely to shipwreck once the NFL put in place the hard cap that had been agreed upon in the collective bargaining

settlement in 1992. This was the rival owners' way of competing with Eddie DeBartolo Jr., who led the league in lavishing gifts and salaries on his players.

So when the scoreboard read San Francisco 49, San Diego 26 late in the evening of January 29, 1995, the 49ers were once more having the last laugh on the league, and no one was enjoying it more than Policy. He pointed across the room to linebacker Ken Norton Jr. "I'd like to think our getting him put a small dent in Dallas's armor," said Policy, who never misses an opportunity to tweak the Cowboys. "And it sent a message to the league of how we were going to go after free agents."

Indeed, the 49ers would not have won Super Bowl XXIX without the presence of Norton, Deion Sanders, and Rickey Jackson, who lifted what was truly a mediocre defense at the end of the 1993 season. That the 49ers were even able to pursue free agents was a tribute to their quick adaptation to the cap back in 1993.

"The critical period for the 49ers in dealing with the salary cap in 1994 was November and December of 1993. But for that

opportunity, we could not have kept our nucleus intact," Policy said. "That enabled us to get into the 1994 season without having to engage in major surgery and it enabled us to pursue some players who could help us win."

Players whose contracts were extended or restructured in 1993 to make them a better fit under the coming salary cap: Rice, tight end Brent Jones, offensive linemen Harris Barton, Steve Wallace, Jesse Sapolu, and Ralph Tamm, safety Merton Hanks, cornerback Eric Davis, and wide receiver John Taylor.

"Our approach to the cap was a little different from most. The cap was designed to decapitate the 49ers," said Policy. "You knew you were going to be violated in some way. Do you just sit there and scream about it? We decided to make it our ally. When we gave all that bonus money at the end of the 1993 season, it was no reckless spending by Eddie DeBartolo. It was an intelligent capital investment."

But it was perceived otherwise by the 49ers' top rivals. Critics from the Cowboys and other organizations said the 49ers were mortgaging their future in order to win one more title. And there were questions raised about the validity of some contracts, particularly when it was reported that Nike had a stake in Sanders playing for the 49ers.



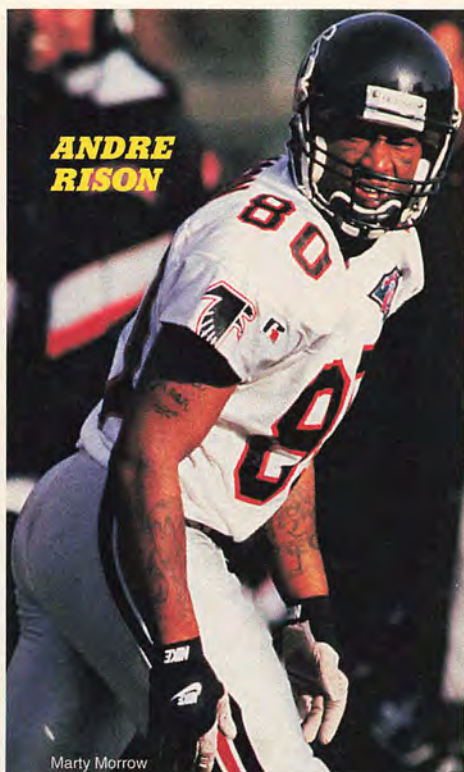
CAPSIZED!

The 49ers were accused of moving dollars into 1999 and beyond when there is no salary cap in place. Policy pointed out that only Norton's contract goes into 1999. "And it's not guaranteed," he said.

COWBOYS BACK IN THE SADDLE

The 49ers weren't the only member of the NFL elite to hold up well under the constraints of the cap. Win back-to-back Super Bowls with one of the league's youngest teams and you're certain to be destroyed in free agency. Or so the Cowboys were told. Their losses in 1994 appeared to be significant: Norton, defensive tackles Jimmie Jones and Tony Casillas, guards Kevin Gogan and John Gesek, kicker Eddie Murray, quarterback Bernie Kosar. Dallas responded with a 12-4 season despite the equally significant loss of coach Jimmy Johnson. Only the 49ers were better.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, despite the wealth of talent on his club, remains a supporter of the cap restrictions, even after losing center Mark Stepnoski, wide receiver Alvin Harper, safety James Washington, and



ANDRE RISON

Marty Morrow

three key special-teamers in Matt Vanderbeek, Darrick Brownlow, and Kenny Gant this time around.

"Some people might give debate to this point, but I think we've been able to keep the core of our team intact," said Jones, who has Troy Aikman signed through 1999, Michael Irvin through 1998, and the "franchise" designation available to keep Emmitt Smith running in Texas Stadium for the rest of his career. "The players we have lost, while they are good players and we would



ALVIN HARPER

Bruce L. Schwartzman

love to have them, have been replaced. Had we not lost Gogan and Gesek, we would not have Larry Allen [last year's second-round pick, who excelled in place of Erik Williams].

"Troy, Emmitt, Michael, Erik Williams, Daryl Johnston, Jay Novacek—those are the players we felt we had to keep in order to stay at this level. From our perspective, the system will allow us to continue to compete the way we always have. Our opponents may believe that the system is bringing down a talented team. I wouldn't trade the talent we have under contract for anybody else's in the league."

THE GIANTS REGROUP

While the 49ers and Cowboys do not yet seem to be suffering under the salary cap restrictions, the league's wannabes have not profited the way they might have imagined. Who would have guessed that the New York Giants would fare so badly under the cap? At the end of 1993, they were an overtime period away from dethroning the Cowboys as NFC East champions. Since then, they have lost three-fourths of their secondary in Greg Jackson, Myron Guyton, and Mark Collins; guard Bob Kratch, and key backups in Bart Oates, Eric Moore, and Lewis Tillman. They cut Phil Simms for salary cap reasons and this spring lost their all-purpose star, Dave Meggett.

Now the Giants are hoping that Herschel Walker has something left after 12 professional seasons. They signed him to a three-year, \$4.8 million contract. Said coach Dan Reeves, "I'm excited about having Herschel with us because I've thought about what he could do for a football team ever since Dal-

las got him. He does whatever a team asks him to do. That's the kind of player you want—a guy who's unselfish and wants to be a great team player." But with so many key departures the last two years, it may be too late in Walker's career for him to make the Giants a great team.

NEW APPROACH

NFL owners are just now learning what their baseball brethren have struggled with for two decades—that throwing millions of dollars at free agents does not guarantee a title. The Detroit Lions, winners of the NFC Central in 1993, were lauded for "upgrading" their quarterback position by ridding themselves of Rodney Peete, Erik Kramer, and Andre Ware and signing Miami's Scott Mitchell to a three-year, \$11.1 million contract. Result: The Lions made the playoffs as a wild-card team, but only after Dave Krieg (now in Arizona) came off the

bench to rescue the season. The injured Mitchell was something of an immobile bust, 25th among 29 ranked passers. His 48.4 percent completions were nearly a full 10 percent below the league average (58.0). Coach Wayne Fontes has brought in quarterbacks coach Greg Landry to try to save



HERSCHEL WALKER

Bruce L. Schwartzman



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CAPSIZED!

Mitchell. "I want somebody who can say, 'This is how you were throwing yesterday, this is how you're throwing today, this is why you're throwing it in the dirt.'"

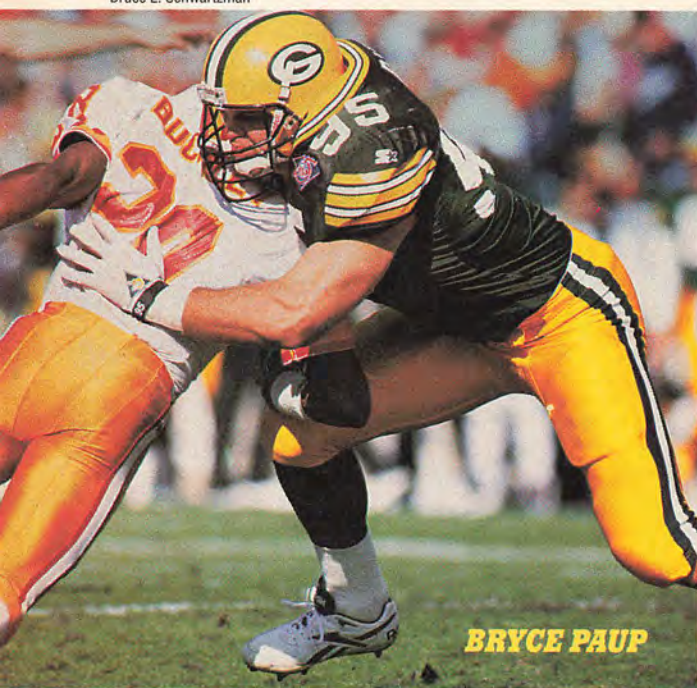
The Lions tried a new approach this year, quickly signing defensive tackle Henry Thomas to a three-year \$7.35 million deal. This appeared to be a more sound move because (1) Thomas is proven, a two-time Pro Bowler who should have been voted there more often, and (2) it gives the Lions a quality player while taking one away from rival Minnesota.

"For us to get to the level of the Cowboys and 49ers, we've got to get more consistent and more productive in third-down offense and third-down defense. Henry Thomas will help us do that," said Fontes. "Opponents will be forced to double-team him. That always helps the guy next to him and maybe that helps our secondary, too, where we lack speed."

RISKY BUSINESS

Other teams took major risks this spring by signing wide receivers to huge contracts. Tampa Bay pried Alvin Harper away from Dallas at a price of \$10.6 million over four years. Cleveland signed Andre Rison for \$17 million over five years. Wide receivers are a risky investment, especially when going to a new team. So much depends on the quarterback, and even the presence of a great passer doesn't always produce the results teams anticipate. Last year, Denver was desperate to upgrade its receiver corps, to give John Elway an outside threat to complement Shannon Sharpe. The Broncos signed Tim Brown, but the Raiders matched the offer. They signed Anthony Miller for four years at \$11 million and the Chargers didn't

Bruce L. Schwartzman



match. What happened? Miller caught 60 passes for 1,107 yards and five touchdowns, slightly below his previous averages, and the Broncos went nowhere. San Diego, with wide receivers Mark Seay, Tony Martin, and Shawn Jefferson combined earning less than Miller, went to its first Super Bowl.

Other teams continue to make surprising decisions. Miami, which ranked first in offense last year and 19th in defense, could not stop San Diego in the second half of its playoff game. The Dolphins traded for defensive end Trace Armstrong of Chicago, but their major offseason move was to sign tight end Eric Green away from Pittsburgh.

"Different teams have different philosophies," coach Don Shula said. "We went after Eric Green because he's a big, physical player who can help our offense. Keith Jackson [traded to Green Bay] was talking about retiring in another year. We were the No. 1 offensive team last year, but we felt he could make us better, more of a ball-control team."

COMINGS AND GOING

The Eagles want to do the same, which led them to sign Ricky Watters away from San Francisco. New coach Ray Rhodes hopes to build an offense that will rely less upon quarterback Randall Cunningham to make all the right moves.

"We felt we had to have a running back, an everyday guy who could compete," said Eagles director of personnel John Wooten. "If you're going to have a chance to win against Dallas and San Francisco, then those are the caliber of players you're going to have to bring in."

But with the salary cap, there is almost always a tradeoff, and in the Eagles' case it was the loss of Pro Bowl cornerback Eric Allen to New Orleans. Watters better be able to run the ball and control the clock some because the Eagles' defense, which has nearly been destroyed by free agency, just got weaker.

What the salary cap has created is a totally different pay structure. Veter-



Mike Powell / Allsport

ans who play important backup roles could count on making in the \$400-500,000 range a few years ago. Not so now. Backups making more than the minimum (\$179,000 this year) are the exception, not the rule.

Buffalo is one of the few teams which spent big dollars on a player it projects as a reserve, signing the Cowboys' Jim Jeffcoat at a salary cap cost for 1995 of \$850,000. The Bills, who also signed pass-rushing linebacker Bryce Paup from Green Bay, were 26th in sacks last season.

"Over a period of four years, we had been to four Super Bowls," coach Marv Levy said. "We had committed a lot of money to Bruce Smith, Jim Kelly, Thurman Thomas—those players. We didn't have a lot to spend on others. But through free agency, we've lost Howard Ballard and Shane Conlan and Will Wolford and Nate Odomes. We knew we had to attack more this offseason from a personnel standpoint and we knew we needed to upgrade our pass rush."

For 30 teams, there seem to be 30 philosophies in the strange new era of the salary cap. Said Policy, "The whole scenario has changed. What's apparent now is that the best organizations are going to win." And for now, that leaves the 49ers on top with the Cowboys close behind.

"They're still the teams to beat," said Wooten. "But by having a cap, they can't have all the stars. They have to be somewhat limited. But they haven't lost enough yet not to be considered the top two." □

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The Sporting News

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How To Play

**Pick a team of 20 starters
using a \$30,000,000 salary cap**

ROSTER

- Starting team consists of 20 players:
 - 3 kickers
 - 6 running backs
 - 6 wide receivers
 - 3 quarterbacks
 - 2 tight ends
- Starting team's salary cannot exceed the \$30,000,000 salary cap.
- Taxi squad consists of any 10 players.
- Salary cap and position distribution rules do not apply for the taxi squad.
- Unlisted players may be placed on your taxi squad. Their salary will be \$750,000. They will be assigned a position by CDM after Week 1 and may be placed on your starting team for Week 2.

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LEAGUE FORMATION

- Leagues and divisions are formed on a first-come, first-served basis.
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- All teams compete for the overall grand prize.
- Teams may have many of the same players, but no two teams with the same roster will be in the same league.

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overall position each week**

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- Receive a five-page report weekly or bi-weekly. You automatically receive bi-weekly reports with your entry fee.
- Updated league rosters and top 5 in your division & top 5 overall sent every 6 weeks.
- Fax service available.

ENTRY DEADLINES

- Entries must be phoned or faxed by Sat., Sept. 2, 1995.
- Mailed entries must be postmarked no later than Sept. 2, 1995 and received no later than Sat., Sept. 9, 1995.

**\$372,741
in Cash Prizes Last Year!**

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3 WAYS TO EARN CASH PRIZES

- League (1 in 5 earn cash)
- Division (1 in 10 earn more cash)
- Overall (Top 25 earn lots of cash)

**1 in 25 will earn
at least \$600 Cash**

Place	Overall Prizes (all entries)	Division Prizes (250 teams)	League Prizes (25 teams)
1st	\$25,000	\$1,000	\$600
2nd	\$10,000	\$500	\$300
3rd	\$5,000	\$250	\$100
4th	\$2,500	\$100	\$75
5th	\$1,000	\$75	\$50
6th to 10th	\$500	\$50	
11th to 15th	\$250	\$30	
16th to 25th	\$100	\$25	

**Plus \$100 will be awarded to
the overall leader each week.**

**More Cash Prize Winners
Than Any Other
National Challenge**

COST TO PLAY

- \$79.00 for an entry postmarked by July 22, 1995.
- \$89.00 for an entry postmarked by August 12, 1995.
- \$99.00 for an entry postmarked after August 12, 1995.
- \$79.00 for each additional entry.
- \$10.00 for reports to be mailed to a second address.
- \$10.00 per address per team for reports to be mailed weekly rather than bi-weekly.

TRANSACTION FEES

- To make player transactions, a toll-free 800 number and an account number will be provided.

The transaction fees are as follows:

Taxi Squad Switch (unlimited)	\$3 each
Bye Player Moved In or Out (unlimited)	\$1 each
New Player Purchase (limit 8)	\$10 each
TSN Free Agent Acquisition (limit 3)	No Charge
Fax Service (per page per week)	\$1

- Player transactions must be made by Saturday 9 PM Central Time in order to be effective for the upcoming Sunday and Monday games, or by 9 PM CST the day preceding any other game.

SCORING

- Each team will be ranked within its league, division and overall by eight statistical categories:

Total Scoring	Total Receiving Yards
Kicker Scoring	Receiving Yards Average
Total Rushing Yards	Total Passing Yards
Rushing Yards Average	Passing Yards Average
- The following formula is used to calculate total scoring: (Rushing TDs x 6)+(Passing TDs x 3)+(Receiving TDs x 3)+(Field Goals x 3)+Extra Points+(Other TDs x 6).
- The average categories are calculated using your team total completions, carries and receptions.
- Rankings will be determined by using the Rotisserie®-style ranking system. Each team is ranked in league, division and overall.
- Stats are accumulated weekly for all 20 starting players. The stat week begins with games played on Thursday and ends with games played on Monday.
- All pro football statistics accumulated by the players on the starting team, regardless of what position they play during the season, contribute to a team's statistics totals. Special team yardage does not count.
- Taxi squad players' stats don't contribute to team's stat totals.
- Previous stats by a player before he was on your roster do not count.
- A player's statistics are added to your team's statistics totals only during the weeks that he is in your starting team.
- Pre-season and play-off statistics do not contribute to your team's statistics totals.
- Division points are calculated by ranking your team's statistics totals versus every other team's stats in your division's 10 leagues.
- Overall points are calculated by ranking your team's statistics totals versus all other entries in *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge*.

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waiting to answer your
questions and enter your team.
Call 1-800-568-6288**

- The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge* welcomes entries from around the world. All fees, however, must be paid with U.S. funds. For overseas entries, please add \$10 to cover additional mailing costs. If needed, our toll number is 1-314-991-1511.
- Player transactions can be made with live commissioners 9 AM - 9 PM Tuesday through Saturday.
- You must be 18 years or older to participate.
- No employees of CDM, Inc., *The Sporting News Publishing Company*, or their families are eligible to play.
- CDM, Inc. is a licensee of *The Sporting News Publishing Company*, and is solely responsible for enacting, administering, enforcing the rules, and maintaining the integrity of *The Challenge*.
- CDM, Inc. reserves the right to revise any rules to improve *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge*.
- Void where prohibited by law.
- Further explanation of all rules will be contained in your Welcome Package.


The Sporting News

FANTASY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Player Salaries

Kickers			Quarterbacks (cont)			Running Backs (cont)			Tight Ends			Wide Receivers			Wide Receivers			
ID	Player	TM Salary	ID	Player	TM Salary	ID	Player	TM	ID	Player	TM Salary	ID	Player	TM Salary	ID	Player	TM Salary	
1	CARNEY, JOHN	SD 2190	136	STEWART, KORDELL	PIT 800	256	LOGAN, MARC	WAS 460	401	SHARPE, SHANNON	DEN 1800	501	RICE, JERRY	SF 2100	558	JEFFRIES, HAYWOOD	N/A 720	
2	ELAM, JASON	DEN 2100	137	COLLINS, TODD	BUF 800	257	MCAIN, TODD	N/A 460	402	JONES, BRENT	SF 1560	502	IRVIN, MICHAEL	DAL 2050	559	MARTIN, KELVIN	JAC 710	
3	ANDERSEN, MORTON	NO 2080	138	FRIESZ, JOHN	SEA 770	258	MUSTER, BRAD	NO 460	403	GREEN, ERIC	MIA 1560	503	MOORE, HERMAN	DET 1680	560	CALLOWAY, CHRIS	NYG 700	
4	BONIOI, CHRIS	DAL 2010	139	KRAMER, ERIC	CHI 750	259	GARNER, CHARLIE	PHI 460	404	JACKSON, KEITH	GB 1550	504	MILLER, ANTHONY	DEN 1660	561	JACKSON, MARK	JAC 680	
5	STOYANOVICH, PETE	MIA 2000	140	CARLSON, CODY	HOU 720	260	BUNCH, JARROD	N/A 460	405	MITCHELL, JOHNNY	NYJ 1430	505	ELLARD, HENRY	WAS 1620	562	GREEN, WILLIE	CAR 670	
6	ANDERSON, G.	N/A 2000	141	SALISBURY, SEAN	N/A 700	261	MITCHELL, BRIAN	WAS 460	406	COATES, BEN	NE 1410	506	FRYAR, IRVING	MIA 1580	563	DAWSEY, LAWRENCE	TB 660	
7	REVEZ, FUAD	MIN 2000	142	FREROTTE, GUS	WAS 650	262	MOORE, DERRICK	SF 430	407	HARRIS, JACKIE	TB 1140	507	SHARPE, STERLING	N/A 1570	564	CARTER, ANTHONY	N/A 640	
8	CHRISTIE, STEVE	BUF 1940	143	RICHARDSON, BUCKY	HOU 560	263	VARDELL, TOMMY	CLE 410	408	BRUENER, MARK	PIT 1000	508	BROWN, TIM	RAI 1520	565	STONE, DWIGHT	PIT 620	
9	JACK, CHRIS	GB 1920	144	EVANS, VINCE	N/A 560	264	RUSSELL, LEONARD	N/A 390	409	BRADY, KYLE	NYJ 1000	509	REED, ANDRE	BUF 1500	566	LANGHORNE, REGGIE	N/A 620	
10	HANSON, JASON	DET 1900	145	GANNON, RICH	KC 550	265	SMITH, ROBERT	MIN 390	410	MCGEE, TONY	CIN 970	510	RISON, ANDRE	CLE 1490	567	ISMAIL, QADRY	MIN 620	
11	BRIEN, DOUG	SF 1850	146	NAGLE, BROWNING	IND 530	266	NEAL, LORENZO	NO 380	411	CROSS, HOWARD	NYG 800	511	DAVIS, WILLIE	KC 1450	568	JEFFERSON, SHAWN	SD 620	
12	LOWERY, NICK	NYJ 1800	147	TRUDEAU, JACK	CAR 500	267	THOMAS, BLAIR	N/A 370	412	WATKINS, KENDALL	DAL 800	512	HARPER, ALVIN	TB 1390	569	ISMAIL, RAGHIB	RAI 620	
13	JAEGER, JEFF	RAI 1780				268	WILLIAMS, JOHN L	PIT 370	413	DILGER, KEN	IND 800	513	ALEXANDER, DERRIC	CLE 1370	570	WINANS, TYDUS	WAS 610	
14	JOHNSON, NORM	ATL 1770				269	HEBRON, VAUGH	PHI 370	414	FAURIA, CHRISTIAN	SEA 800	514	ANDERSON, WILLIE	IND 1240	571	REED, JAKE	MIN 610	
15	DEL GRECO, AL	N/A 1740	Running Backs			270	ROBINSON, GREG	RAI 360	415	BAVARO, MARK	N/A 740	515	CLARK, GARY	MIA 1100	572	SEAY, MARK	SD 590	
16	PELFREY, DOUG	CIN 1700	ID	Player	TM Salary	271	WORKMAN, VINCE	TB 360	416	WALLS, WESLEY	NO 700	516	BARNETT, FRED	PHI 1090	573	MILLS, ERNIE	PIT 580	
17	STOVER, MATT	CLE 1680	201	SANDERS, BARRY	DET 3710	272	VAUGHN, JON	KC 360	417	HORTON, ETHAN	N/A 620	517	BRISBY, VINCENT	NE 1070	574	MONK, ART	N/A 580	
18	LOHMILLER, CHIP	WAS 1660	202	SMITH, EMMITT	DAL 3530	273	MURRELL, ADRIAN	NYJ 350	418	CASH, KERRY	RAI 610	518	MARTIN, ERIC	KC 1060	575	RUSSELL, DEREK	N/A 560	
19	BUTLER, KEVIN	CHI 1650	203	FAULK, MARSHALL	IND 2590	274	GREEN, HAROLD	CIN 350	419	NOVACEK, JAY	DAL 580	519	MOORE, ROB	ARZ 1060	576	WADDELL, TOM	CIN 550	
20	BAHR, MATT	NE 1540	204	ALLEN, TERRY	MIN 2460	275	FLOYD, WILLIAM	SF 350	420	PIERCE, AARON	NYG 550	520	HAYNES, MICHAEL	NO 1060	577	BAILEY, VICTOR	KC 540	
21	BIASUCCI, DEAN	N/A 1470	205	WARREN, CHRIS	SEA 2450	276	THOMPSON, D.	CHI 350	421	WALKER, DERRICK	KC 520	521	GRAHAM, JEFF	CHI 1030	578	HOWARD, DESMOND	JAC 540	
22	MURRAY, EDDIE	PHI 1450	206	WATERS, RICKY	PHI 2350	277	BIENIEHY, ERIC	CIN 320	422	JORDAN, STEVE	MIN 510	522	JACKSON, MICHAEL	CLE 1010	579	MARSHALL, ARTHUR	NYG 540	
23	HUSTED, MICHAEL	TB 1450	207	THOMAS, THURMAN	BUF 2290	278	THOMPSON, LEROY	N/A 310	423	DRAYTON, TROY	STL 500	523	MARTIN, TONY	SD 1000	580	SANDERS, RICKY	N/A 530	
24	TREADWELL, DAVID	N/A 1450	208	FOSTER, BARRY	PIT 2000	279	WORD, BARRY	N/A 310	424	KINCHEN, BRIAN	CLE 470	524	GALLOWAY, JOEY	SEA 1000	581	CONWAY, CURTIS	CHI 530	
25	DAVIS, GREG	ARZ 1440	209	BETTIS, JEROME	STL 1990	280	BENNETT, EDGAR	GB 310	425	COOPER, ADRIAN	MIN 450	525	SANDERS, DEION	N/A 1000	582	WRIGHT, ALEXANDER	STL 520	
26	KASAY, JOHN	CAR 1410	210	MORRIS, BAM	PIT 1710	281	HILLIARD, DALTON	N/A 300	426	METZELARS, PETE	CAR 400	526	STOKES, J.J.	SF 1000	583	BROOKS, BILL	N/A 510	
27	ZENDEJAS, TONY	STL 1390	211	WHITE, LORENZO	CLE 1590	282	WILLIAMS, HARVEY	RAI 290	427	GLOVER, ANDREW	RAI 390	527	WESTBROOK, MICHAEL	WAS 1000	584	PRITCHARD, MIKE	DEN 510	
28	ELLIOTT, LIN	KC 1370	212	WALKER, HERSCHEL	NYG 1560	283	CENTERS, LARRY	ARZ 290	428	ARMSTRONG, TYJI	TB 380	528	CARTER, CHIS	MIN 980	585	LEWIS, NATE	ATL 490	
29	CORFER, MIKE	IND 1260	213	MEANS, WATRONE	SD 1510	284	JOHNSON, LESHON	GB 290	429	WEST, ED	IND 380	529	HESTER, JESSIE	STL 970	586	CRITTENDEN, RAY	NE 490	
30	DALLUSO, BRAD	NYG 1170	214	HAMPTON, RODNEY	NYG 1450	285	DUMBAR, VAUGHN	NO 280	430	JOHNSON, REGGIE	N/A 330	530	PICKENS, CARL	CIN 970	587	SMALL, TORRANCE	NO 490	
31	WILKINS, JEFF	PHI 1000	215	BROWN, GARY	HOU 1420	286	LEWIS, DARREN	N/A 270	431	HAYES, JONATHAN	PIT 320	531	TAYLOR, JOHN	SF 970	588	MORGAN, ANTHONY	N/A 430	
			216	JOHNSON, JOHNNY	NYJ 1370	287	CHAFFEY, PAT	N/A 270	432	HALL, RON	DET 310	532	JETT, JAMES	RAI 960	589	DUNCAN, CURTIS	N/A 410	
			217	BROOKS, REGGIE	WAS 1370	288	BENNETT, DONNELL	KC 270	433	BRENNER, HOBY	N/A 290	533	SHERARD, MIKE	NYG 960	590	TILLMAN, CEDRIC	JAC 410	
			218	METCALF, ERIC	ATL 1130	289	GRAHAM, SCOTTIE	MIN 260	434	HOLMAN, RODNEY	DET 270	534	CARRIER, MARK J	CAR 940	591	MCCAFFREY, ED	DEN 400	
			219	HOARD, LEROY	CLE 1080	290	WORLEY, TIM	N/A 260	435	CASH, KEITH	KC 270	535	WILLIAMS, CALVIN	PHI 920	592	MCDUFFIE, O.J.	MIA 400	
			220	WHEATLEY, TYRONE	NYG 1000	291	TURNER, KEVIN	PHI 260	436	PUPUNO, ALFRED	SD 250	536	EARLY, QUINN	NO 920	593	MCGEE, TIM	CIN 390	
			221	KAUFMAN, NAP.	RAI 1000	292	HARRIS, RAYMOND	CHI 260	437	CARTER, PAT	HOU 250	537	PROEHL, RICKY	SEA 920	594	QUERY, JEFF	CIN 370	
			222	STEWART, JAMES	JAC 1000	293	HEARST, GARRISON	ARZ 240	438	GEDNEY, CHRIS	CHI 240	538	BIRDEN, JJ	ATL 910	595	CLAYTON, MARK	N/A 360	
			223	WILLIAMS, S.	DAL 1000	294	BELL, NICK	N/A 240	439	JENNINGS, KEITH	N/A 230	539	GIVINS, ERNEST	HOU 900	596	JOHNSON, VANCE	DEN 350	
			224	CARTER, KI-JANA	CIN 1000	295	ANDERS, KIMBLE	KC 240	440	POPSON, TED	SF 200	540	SCOTT, DARNAY	CIN 900	597	BRUCE, ISAAC	STL 350	
			225	ALLEN, MARCUS	KC 960	296	CARTER, DEXTER	NYJ 230				541	COPELAND, HORACE	TB 880	598	COPELAND, RUSSELL	BUF 340	
			226	MOORE, RON	NYJ 940	297	WARREN, LAMONT	IND 220				542	HILL, RANDAL	MIA 880	599	DAVIS, WENDELL	CHI 340	
			227	HARMON, RONNIE	SD 860	298	JOHNSON, ANTHONY	CHI 220				543	EMANUEL, BERT	ATL 870	600	TILLMAN, LAWYER	CAR 330	
			228	BATES, MARIO	NO 860	299	RATHMAN, TOM	N/A 210				544	BLADES, BRIAN	SEA 870	601	BARNETT, TIM	N/A 320	
			229	POTTS, ROOSEVELT	IND 830							545	DAWKINS, SEAN	IND 850	602	WELLMAN, GARY	HOU 310	
			230	HEYWARD, CRAIG	ATL 800							546	JOHNSON, CHARLES	PIT 830	603	SINGLETON, NATE	SF 290	
			231	ZELLARS, RAY	NO 800							547	MATHIS, TERANCE	ATL 830	604	JONES, ERNIE	N/A 290	
			232	FLETCHER, TERRELL	SD 800							548	WILSON, CHARLES	TB 800	605	BROOKS, ROBERT	GB 270	
			233	BERNSTINE, ROD	DEN 770							549	SANDERS, FRANK	ARZ 800	606	TURNER, FLOYD	IND 260	
			234	RHETT, ERRIC	TB 770							550	OLIVER, JIMMY	SD 800	607	EDWARDS, ANTHONY	N/A 260	
			235	HILL, GREG	KC 760							551	PERRIMAN, BRETT	DET 790	608	MCMURTRY, GREG	CHI 250	
			236	PEGRAM, ERRIC	PIT 740							552	HAWKINS, COURTNEY	TB 790	609	THOMAS, LAMAR	TB 250	
			237	SHERMAN, HEATH	N/A 740							553	SLAUGHTER, W	HOU 780	610	MCCARDLELL, KEANAN	CLE 250	
			238	KIRBY, TERRY	MIA 720							554	BEEBE, DON	CAR 770	611	WILLIAMS, KEVIN	DAL 230	
			239	FENNER, DERRICK	RAI 690							555	TIMPSON, MICHAEL	CHI 770	612	OBEE, TERRY	N/A 230	
			240	CONNOR, REGGIE	JAC 660							556	DAWSON, LAKE	KC 750	613	HARRIS, LEONARD	N/A 220	
			241	DAVIS, KENNETH	N/A 660							557	INGRAM, MARK	GB 740	614	HASTINGS, ANDRE	PIT 220	
			242	BOUSSARD, STEVE	CIN 630													
			243	SPIKES, IRVING	MIA 630													
			244	TILLMAN, LEWIS	CHI 620													
			245	BAXTER, BRAD	NYJ 590													
			246	BUTTS, MARION	N/A 580													
			247	GARY, CLEVELAND	N/A 570													
			248	HIGGS, MARK	N/A 550													
			249	BYARS, KEITH	MIA 540													
			250	BYNER, EARNEST	CLE 500													
			251	PARMALEE, BERNIE	MIA 500													
			252	BAILEY, JOHNNY	STL 490													
			253	MEGETT, DAVID	NE 480													
			254	LANG, DAVID	DAL 460													

Positions and salaries, as listed here, remain the same all season!



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Only players listed on this
page can be placed in your
starting line-up the 1st week!

Entries must
be phoned or
faxed by 9 PM
Saturday,
September 2,
1995

Positions and salaries, as listed here, remain the same all season!



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Only players listed on this page can be placed in your starting line-up the 1st week!

Entries must be phoned or faxed by 9 PM Saturday, September 2, 1995

All salaries are in 000's. Players not listed on this page must be placed on taxi squad-Salary 750. The player's team is based on team as of May 7, 1995

I. Team Owner Information			II. Starting Team			III. Taxi Squad				
S&S			Feel free to enlarge or use a separate piece of paper							
Name			Pos	ID	Name	Salary	ID	Name		
Team Name			K		RB		1			
Address			K		RB		2			
City	St.	Zip	K		TE		3			
Phone			QB		TE		4			
MC/VISA			QB		WR		5			
Exp			QB		WR		6			
\$99 Challenge Entry (\$79 or \$89 if early)			RB		WR		7			
Additional Entries Quantity x \$79.00 =			RB		WR		8			
Weekly Reports Quantity x \$10.00 =			RB							

Barry Sanders runs a race that has no finish line. He sprints with footballs for sport, not for distance or glory.

So when Sanders tells you 2,000 yards is no big deal to him, believe it. That's what the Detroit running back told everyone last December when he was on the verge of history. Heading into his final game of the 1994 season, Sanders already had his second NFL rushing title in hand and his Lions had clinched a playoff spot. So the regular-season finale figured to be a command performance by Barry the Great, who needed 169 yards against the Miami Dolphins to become just the third player in NFL history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season.

Now 169 yards might have sounded a bit unrealistic for one night of work, except that Sanders had already posted three 170-yard games that season. And Lions coach Wayne Fontes was threatening to increase

Barry's workload to ensure him that magical 2,000. Thanks, but no thanks, said Sanders. The object is to win games, not gain yards.

"What drives me week-to-week is competing, making big plays, making things happen," Sanders said. "That's why we play. I love to get as many yards as I can...but that's secondary."

Sanders proved that in his rookie year when he found himself in position to win an NFL rushing title on the final day of the 1989 season. Kansas City's Christian Okoye had 1,382 yards and the lead. Sanders was 70 yards back. Both runners were playing early games that day: Okoye at Miami and Sanders at Atlanta.

Okoye pounded the Dolphins for 98 yards in a Kansas City victory and finished his season with 1,480. But the Detroit game was still in progress and Sanders was closing fast, rattling the Falcons for 158 yards. Heading into the final minute, Sanders trailed Okoye by 10 yards. Then the Lions regained possession with a 31-24 lead. Fontes was informed by club officials in the press box that Sanders needed 11 yards to win a rushing crown. Detroit had 51 seconds left and two timeouts—plenty of ammunition for Sanders to overtake Okoye. After all, he had ripped the Falcons for an average of 7.9 yards per carry that day. So Fontes told Sanders to get in there and win himself a title.

Sanders declined. He told Fontes that Tony Paige, his backup in Detroit's one-back set, had worked hard in practice and deserved this chance to play. "Let's just win and go home," Sanders told Fontes. Paige took the field and the Lions finished the game with quarterback Bob Gagliano taking a knee on three consecutive snaps. The Lions didn't use their timeouts. Sanders didn't win his rushing title.

"That's the unselfish person he is," Fontes said. "He's not the type of player to draw attention to himself. Individual accomplishments aren't that important to him."

So there was no gnashing of teeth when Sanders failed in his quest for 2,000 in the 1994 season finale. He rushed for only 52 yards, but he was more disappointed in Detroit's 27-20 loss to Miami than his own failure to join Eric Dickerson and O.J. Simpson in the exclusive 2,000-yard club.

"It's hard for me to go in and compete against numbers," Sanders said. "We compete against people. That's the thrill of the game—competing against the man on the other side of the ball. When you've conquered them, that's when you get your satisfaction. The yards become secondary."

Sanders may be modest but his achievements aren't. He has already bagged one 2,000-yard season in his football career, rushing for an NCAA-record 2,628 yards at Oklahoma State in 1988. He

won the Heisman Trophy that season, then became one of the first underclassmen ever to enter an NFL draft. The

Lions claimed Sanders with the third overall pick in 1989 and he went on to win Rookie of the Year honors for his runner-up finish in the rushing race.

Sanders became the first Lion to win a rushing title in 50 years when he rolled up 1,304 yards in 1990. A knee injury cost him a chance to win his second crown in 1993 when he missed the final

five games of the season. He had 1,115 yards at the time of his injury and a 153-yard lead on his former college teammate Thurman Thomas. His second rushing title came in 1994 and it was Barry at his finest. His 1,883 yards constituted the fourth-best season in league history. Along the way he torched Dallas, the NFL's top-rated defense, for 194 yards rushing. He also slapped 110 yards on Minnesota, the NFL's No. 1 run defense, and 188 more on Green Bay, the No. 3 run defense. Sanders averaged 5.7 yards per carry, a yard better than any other running back, and didn't lose a fumble all season. Sanders joined Dickerson as the only backs in league history to rush for 1,000 yards in each of their first six seasons. He also has been selected to six consecutive Pro Bowls.

"In his first few seasons in the league," Fontes said, "people would ask me, 'Who's the best back—Barry? Emmitt [Smith]? Thurman?' I kind of danced around the question because I wanted to be diplomatic. Now I don't even hesitate. Barry Sanders is the best runner that's ever touched the football—period. The second-best isn't even close."

Talk like that makes Sanders uncomfortable. He deflects praise in the direction of his blockers, his teammates, his coaches—everyone but himself. It's not easy for Barry Sanders being Barry Sanders.

"He's just a guy that wants to blend in," Lions vice president Chuck Schmidt said.

Except that his legs won't let him. And the Lions are thankful for that.

BARRY SANDERS



Al Messerschmidt

Deion Sanders could always do whatever he wanted, whenever he wanted. Just give him the ball, give him a challenge, and get out of his way.

Basketball? No problem. He was a shooter, naturally, on his high school team and earned second-team all-state honors in Florida by averaging 24 points. In fact, Sanders picked up his nickname "Prime Time" from a high school teammate for his dunking prowess.

Baseball? He was a vacuum in the outfield and a sixth-round draft pick by the Kansas City Royals coming out of high school in 1985—selected before Bo Jackson, Mark Grace, and John Smoltz. He went on to play in a College World Series at Florida State in 1987 and, five years later, in a real World Series, where he hit .533 for the Atlanta Braves.

Football? Sanders was a quarterback in high school, but Florida State tried to take the ball out of his hands by playing him on defense. Deion turned his cornerback post into an offensive launching pad by scoring six touchdowns on interceptions and punts in his career. He won the Thorpe Award as college football's best defensive back in 1988, then put in his bid as pro football's best corner in 1991 with the first of his four consecutive Pro Bowl berths.

But there was a void in Deion's athletic career. A championship void. The Seminoles didn't win in his College World Series appearance, and although they won all four football bowl games in the Sanders era, not a one was for the national title. His Braves lost his lone World Series appearance and his Falcons were pathetic pretenders in the NFL. Atlanta managed only one winning season in Deion's five years and appeared in just one playoff game (a blowout loss).

Jewelry-freak that he is, Sanders could not wear the one ring he wanted most: a championship ring. His individual skills had always set him apart from the rest. But in a team-sport realm, Sanders would need some help. Enter San Francisco. Deion was a free agent in 1994, his baseball career was on hold because of the strike, and the 49ers felt they were one player away from winning another Super Bowl. They had lost to Dallas in back-to-back NFC championship games because the Cowboys had one wide receiver too many. The 49ers could rotate their defense to slow down Pro Bowler Michael Irvin, but Alvin Harper would trample them on the other side. In three Dallas victories over San Francisco in 1992-93, including those two NFC title games, Harper had eight catches for 231 yards.

So who better to solve the 49ers' coverage problem than the best coverage player in the NFL? But Deion didn't fit in the button-down, conservative world of the San Francisco organization. The 49ers play with a quiet dignity, an air of confidence. Sanders was one of the high priests of trash talk. He played with sass. When he prevailed, he prevailed loudly. His touchdowns on inter-

ception and kick returns (and there had been eight of them with the Falcons) rivaled Broadway productions with their struts, strolls, and dance steps. The 49ers desperately wanted his coverage skills, but they weren't sure they wanted the rest of his package.

"Everybody had a certain image of Deion—an idea of what he was like, what he could do, and how he did it," 49ers president Carmen Policy said. "We checked him out thoroughly and the one thing we found out is that he's a man of his word. They told us he may not always do what you want him

to do, but he will always do what he tells you he'll do. That's all you can ask a guy like that. When he

gave us his word on certain things, that was enough for us. Believe me, he lived up to it."

Sanders accepted a one-year contract at a bargain rate of \$1.1 million. He would receive a \$500,000 bonus if

the 49ers won the NFC title game and another \$250,000 if they won the Super Bowl. Sanders bet on himself...and won.

Policy was only too happy to pay the extra money his 49ers also gambled

He was the single-most needed ingredient for our team, based upon where our team was."

Sanders was the defensive difference-maker on a San Francisco team that had always gushed with offensive might. He arrived when the 49ers were struggling at 1-1. They went 15-2 the rest of the way. Sanders intercepted eight passes and returned three of them for touchdowns on his way to NFL Defensive Player of the Year honors. His mere presence forced offenses to look the other way. That was apparent in the NFC title game when the 49ers assigned Sanders man coverage on Harper, their long-time nemesis. Troy Aikman didn't even throw him a pass until the fourth quarter. Harper was finally neutralized and the 49ers were on the way to the Super Bowl with a 38-28 victory.

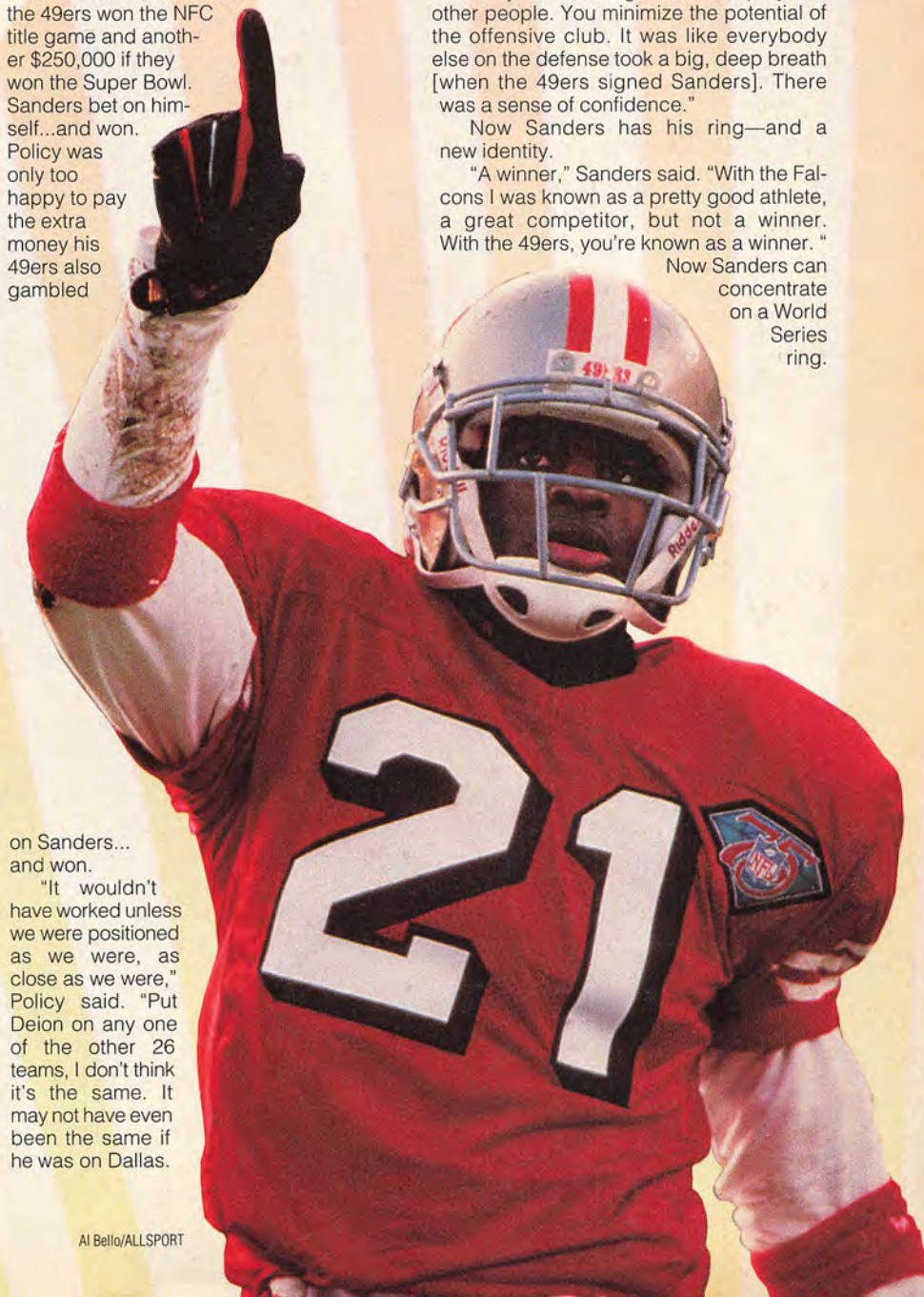
"Deion is able to take away a team's great receiver," 49ers coach George Seifert said. "Most clubs, if they have any, have one. Seldom do they have two. Then the rest of your coverage can overplay the other people. You minimize the potential of the offensive club. It was like everybody else on the defense took a big, deep breath [when the 49ers signed Sanders]. There was a sense of confidence."

Now Sanders has his ring—and a new identity.

"A winner," Sanders said. "With the Falcons I was known as a pretty good athlete, a great competitor, but not a winner. With the 49ers, you're known as a winner."

Now Sanders can concentrate on a World Series ring.

DEION SANDERS



on Sanders... and won.

"It wouldn't have worked unless we were positioned as we were, as close as we were," Policy said. "Put Deion on any one of the other 26 teams, I don't think it's the same. It may not have even been the same if he was on Dallas.

by **TOM FRIEND** NEW YORK TIMES

Steve Young walked home from the Super Bowl. He had had a limousine, chartered for the evening, but it was too claustrophobic in there. He needed fresh air, humid or not, and when the limo was immersed in Fort Lauderdale gridlock, he hit the sidewalk. He was in denim and plaid, but the fanatics outside the San Francisco 49ers hotel must have been expecting their quarterback in black tie. In the dead of night, they looped right past him. He had matted hair, a limp, and a loosened belt when he arrived to the security gate.

"Can I help you?" asked the guard.

"It's him," said Young's companion.

"Do you have any passes?" asked the guard.

"Yeah," Young said. "Just threw six of 'em."

It is hard to believe this happened in Steve Young's season of recognition. Once and for all, he had turned Joe Montana into an old yearbook photo. This was Young's prom and he had taken the vote, unanimously, for king. He had thrown the Super Bowl's ceremonial first touchdown, a lob to Ricky Watters, and the rout was on. The San Diego Chargers blitzed, they played prevent, they could've deployed 15 men, but they were not going to disturb Young. You needed a calculator to count his yards, two hands to count his touchdowns passes.

"Six?" he said, amazed at himself. "Not since Pee Wee League have I done that. That's insane. You just don't do that, and

Candlestick Park, your once-every-five-year off day at home. Coach George Seifert yanked Young early, to save his spine from a pounding, but Young took exception. The Mormon who drank milk began to spew obscenities toward his coach. It was plain for every 49er to see: This quarterback cares.

"I plead insanity," Young said later of his tirade.

"Well," said his father, LeGrande (otherwise known as "Grit"), I had never seen him that...verbal."

If he was no leader before, he was now. Fight authority, and sometimes it's you—not authority—who wins. His teammates also admired his serenity over the specter of Montana. The 49ers met the Chiefs early in the 1994 season, a matchup that had the fans choosing sides. Montana was the legend, Young was the heir, and some in San Francisco were rooting for past to defeat present. The fans betrayed Young before that Kansas City game, and when Montana's Chiefs won the contest, Young somehow remained composed.

STEVE YOUNG

"The game was billed as Joe vs. Steve when, clearly, it was Derrick Thomas vs. Steve," said Young's attorney, Leigh Steinberg.

Still, Young made no ill mention afterward about a player, Montana, who had backstabbed him for years. "Maybe the student still has something to learn from the master," he told reporters. But later at a pay phone, he called his mother and father's answering machine in Greenwich, Connecticut, and his half-serious message was: "Joe's a hero...and I'm a schmuck."

And, literally, that was some people's opinion in San Francisco. Until Young won an important game, until he had an airline ticket to a Super Bowl, he was Mr. Irrelevant to them. Winning the first Dallas game, late in the season, was a step in the right direction. The NFC championship game, though, would either make or stomp all over Young's reputation. But he nearly watched the game on television. Twenty-four hours before kickoff, teammate Richard Dent had inadvertently kneed him in the spine. Young could not roll his neck, much less roll out. Due the wonders of adrenaline, he played and celebrated later with a hip-hop dance move with teammate Sanders.

In his private moments, Young sensed vindication. Before the Super Bowl, his teammates talked about winning the game for their quarterback, to boot the Montana monkey from his back, and he knew then it was his, and only his, team. "They were talking about winning it for me," Young said, "and that, to me, was an amazing camaraderie."

As the Super Bowl clock slid toward :00, Young tried to take a mental Polaroid. "Harris Barton wanted me to remember the moment," he said. "I looked at the scoreboard and

then to do it in the Super Bowl...It's almost too much, too good."

It was the year of his life.

Deion Sanders taught him to dance and he taught himself to scream. At times, he did not have blockers, fans, or the use of muscles in his neck. But he has just been fitted for a ring. The year began with him on his back, or almost. The 49ers lost Harris Barton and then Steve Wallace and then Jesse Sapolu and then Ralph Tamm. Nearly every offensive lineman had been cursed, or so it seemed, and 49er opponents were no longer counting to 5-Mississippi before harrying Young. Chased at will for the first half of the season, Young was yanked apart like a wish-bone and still kept the 49ers winning. It was a defining moment, of sorts, because his teammates now had more admiration for him than ever. He never once whined about his body sprain, he never once asked out. Montana, on the other hand, would have been broken in two.

A game against Philadelphia won over his teammates for good. It was a 40-8 loss, at

watched the people. I took myself out of the emotion, and I was the observer."

He and the championship trophy were a hot couple. He kissed it, looked into its eyes.

"There was just so much emotion poured into that one little object," he said. Then he was handed his Most Valuable Player award: keys to a Riviera. It is a luxury car, a car Montana would have driven. Montana was a Mercedes guy, a Lamborghini guy, a limousine guy. But Young, a month after the Super Bowl, traded the Riviera in.

For a pickup truck.

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NCAAItem# DMN

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F. NFL REPLICA JERSEY by Champion

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Child sizes: S, M, L, XL\$34.99

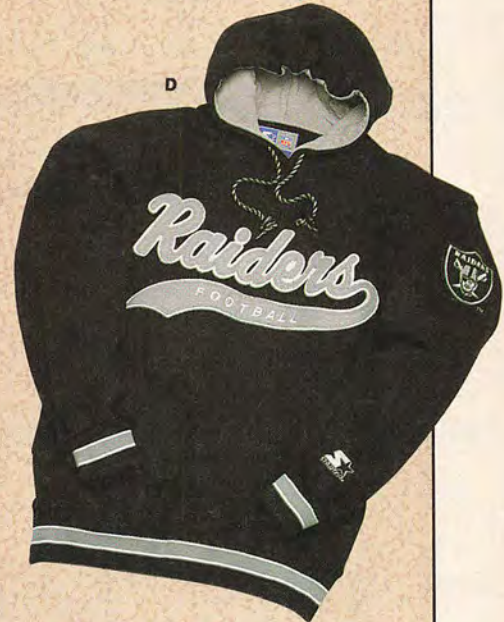
Adult sizes: M, L, XL, XXL\$39.99

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B



D



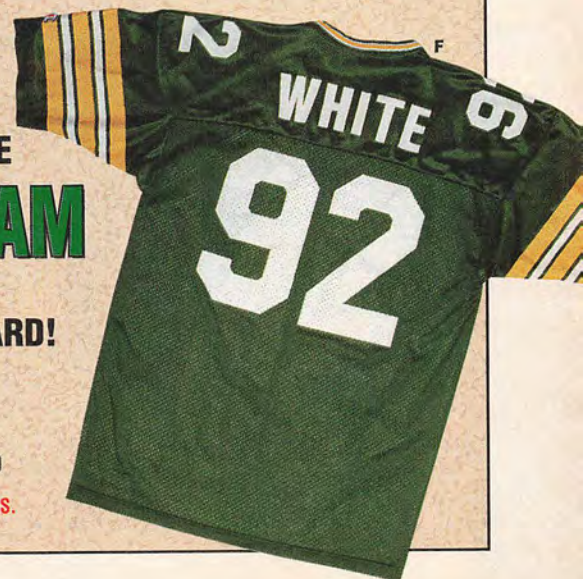
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by **TOM FRIEND** NEW YORK TIMES

His neck burned like a forest fire and his left arm slept on the job. Junior Seau could tackle you with his pinched nerve, but he needed a month off, ultrasound around the clock, and more days at the beach with Dennis Hopper. Still, he was not going to miss Super Bowl XXIX for the world, or for his mom. She had asked him to quit this contact sport since grade school, but he told her this contact sport paid for her new house, her new car, and the beds her children never had growing up. That quieted her down. He told her there was no harm in a little numbness; he couldn't feel it anyway.

Junior Seau of the San Diego Chargers was motivated by the thought of a Super Bowl, the thought of his guilt, and the thought of his father still doing custodian work. Before the Super Bowl against the San Francisco 49ers, he draped a towel over his head and seemed inconsolable. But underneath that veil, where no one else could travel, he was pumping himself up in a personal ceremony that allowed him to play over the speed limit. At times that evening, it seemed to be a game of 11-on-1 (11 49ers vs. 1 Seau). The final score of 49-26 got on his nerves more than his pinched nerve.

But he has been playing hurt for decades. The home Junior knew as a child, the one that lacked bedrooms, stirred his original hunger and was an important frame of reference. His roommates then were a brother, a car, and a dishwasher. "We didn't know any different," Seau said. "We thought everybody slept in the garage."

They resided in a poor, Somoan section of Oceanside, California, and jobs were to be hunted, cherished. Every Seau son—all three of them—were to contribute to the family pot, although Junior sparred with his father over the work edict. It was Junior's preference to play high school sports—where no one else could run as fast or leap as high—but it took much explaining at home. Tiana Seau was a stern taskmaster. Junior was afraid. He knew if he was not going to share in the breadwinning, he had better do some winning elsewhere. Either out of guilt, or natural-born ability—or both—Seau became the area's premier football and basketball player. Nothing could deter him. Literally 48 hours after undergoing abdominal surgery, he bled through his basketball uniform and still led his team to the high school championship.

Seau's parents, sensing their son's commitment, began attending games with the entire family. Junior had enough relatives to fill the bleachers, and they chipped in to make him perhaps the first high school athlete with incentive clauses. "For an interception or a sack, they gave him \$10," said one of his high school coaches, Bill Christopher. "One day, they paid up, and he had a wad of bills that could choke a horse."

After sitting out his freshman season at Southern Cal due to Prop 48 ("If you know Junior, that's worse than taking a hammer to his head," Christopher said), Seau was obsessed with paying his family back, tenfold. And once he signed a first-round contract with his hometown Chargers, he retired the childhood shack he grew up in. "Bought them a house and car with the first check," he said. But his father still would not quit his custodial job at the local high school, and Seau decided then he would never turn complacent, either. On the second snap of his first preseason game, he was ejected for fighting the Raiders' Steve Wisniewski, and he was feared from that moment on.

The Pro Bowl became his annual vacation stop, he sponsored a clothing line called "Say Ow," and he became the Chargers' only media darling. He bench-pressed Jay Leno on The Tonight Show and filmed a sneaker commercial on the Santa Monica Pier with Dennis Hopper, which he called "the highlight of my career."

The lowlight, though, had to be the day his brother, Tony, was arrested for attempted murder. Tony, younger and less focused, had struggled in Junior's shadow and joined a gang because he could not join the NFL. He now serves 10 years. Tony's bondage alternately scares Junior and validates him,

because, if he had not talked his way into sports, it could have been him in the cage. And he cannot be caged—ask offensive linemen.

"We're allowed to visit him once a week, and I try to get there as much as possible," Seau said of his brother. "But Sundays are his visiting hours, and you know what I'm doing Sundays."

On one particular Sunday, 11 weeks into the 1994 season, Seau pinched a nerve in his neck while making one of his team-high 155 tackles. His left arm deadened sporadically the rest of the season, and he essentially became a one-armed linebacker. His critics claimed he should have sat out, should have hopped into a whirlpool turned up to top speed. But if he could have moved his neck freely, he would have shaken it a thousand times no. Because of the guilt, because of a workaholic father.

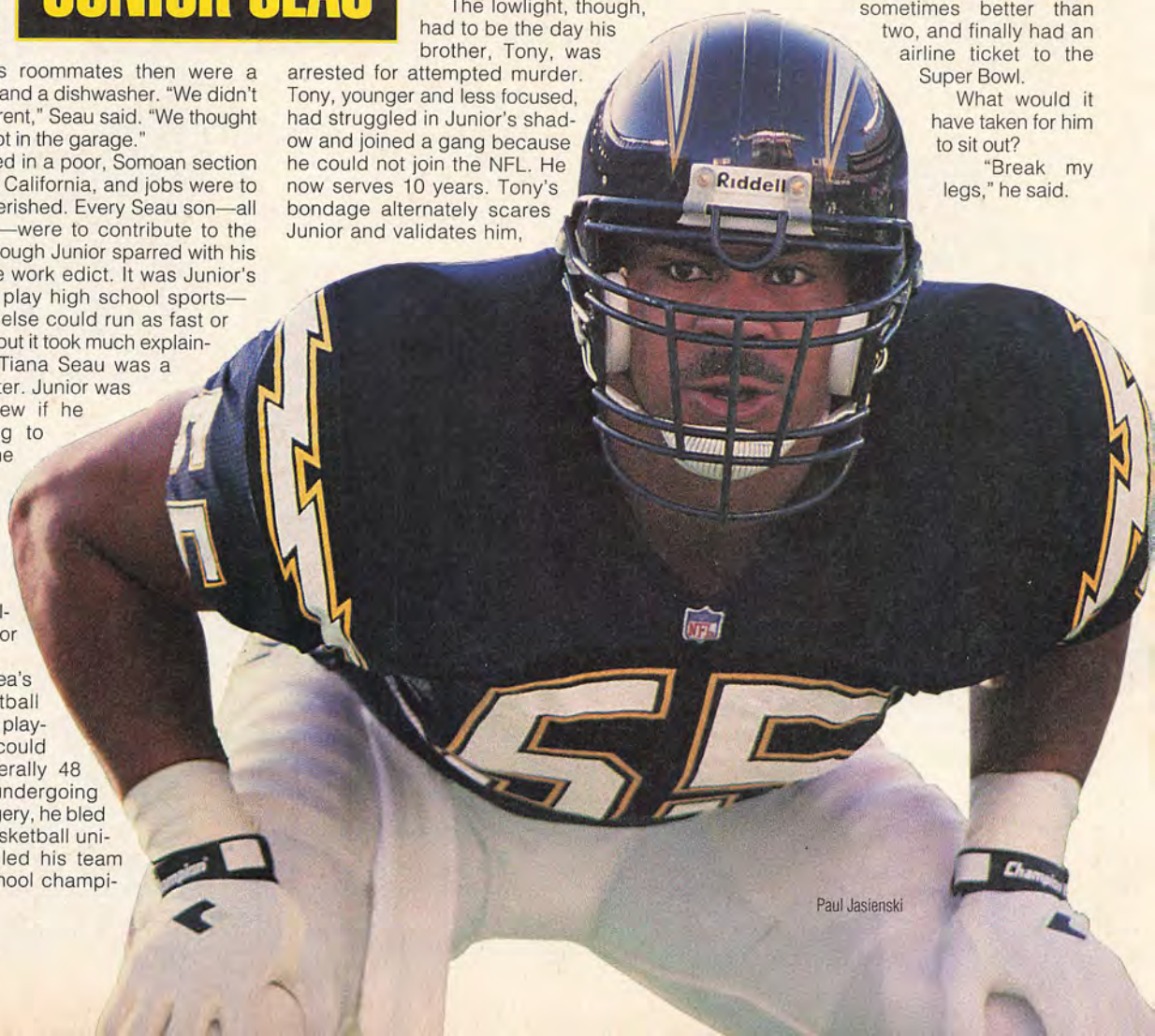
"I play out of fear," he said. "Fear of failure."

The stark reality, though, was that he became a target—for the first time in his career. "The Steelers had to decide whether they were going to attack me with my one arm or run away from me," Seau said of the AFC championship game at Three Rivers Stadium. Pittsburgh chose to aim right at Seau, and Barry Foster and Bam Morris later had the bruises to prove it. Playing with half of a body, Seau wrapped up Steeler ballcarriers 16 times, spiked them down like footballs, proved one arm is sometimes better than two, and finally had an airline ticket to the Super Bowl.

What would it have taken for him to sit out?

"Break my legs," he said.

JUNIOR SEAU



Paul Jasienksi

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B



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D



E

E. FUTURE JACKET

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Heady Times in the NFL

Despite a preoccupation with bandanas, caps, helmets, and crowns, pro football is atop the sports world.

by DON PIERSON

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Pro football needs no comeback story to regenerate itself in 1995. Unlike baseball, football went nowhere but up, and now the 76th season only expects to build on the 75th, which survived quite nicely without Jimmy Johnson or the Buffalo Bills.

On the same day Michael Jordan gave basketball a much-needed shot in the arm, Phil Simms decided football didn't need him as a backup to Vinny Testaverde. While boxing needs the punch of Mike Tyson, football knocks out all competition at the gate and on the tube.

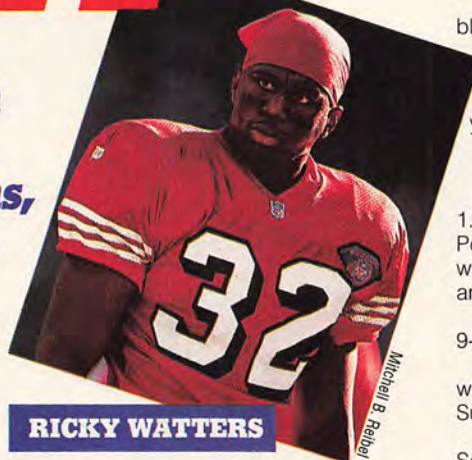
YES, WE HAVE NO BANDANAS

So satisfied were rulesmakers with more scoring that they refused to tinker with adjustments to the 1995 rules, spending time instead discussing the social and practical implications of wearing a bandana under the helmet. Maybe padded bandanas would reduce the risk of concussion. "The question is whether it's part of the uniform," explained Minnesota Vikings coach Dennis Green, a member of the Competition Committee. "I would just say I would be surprised to see a baseball player wearing a bandana."

Most people are surprised to see a baseball player at all, which is cause for rejoicing in the hallowed halls of football. Without apology, pro football named a baseball player, Deion Sanders, its most valuable defensive player while he was helping the San Francisco 49ers win the Super Bowl. Sanders reported that the Super Bowl surpassed the World Series in his not-so-humble estimation, a significant opinion by the only man ever to play in both.

The dreaded salary cap, designed as yet another tool for parity, is treated as no more than an annoying speed bump by the smartest and best teams. The 49ers led the way because club president Carmen Policy grabbed the new system by the throat and squeezed it for all it was worth, much to the dismay of jealous rivals.

Owners who remain convinced that the cap makes all teams equal place more weight than ever on the coaches' shoulders. There are eight new head coaches this year,



RICKY WATTERS

thanks to expansion teams Carolina and Jacksonville and shorter grace periods than ever. Pete Carroll got one year in New York, just as Richie Petitbon got the year before in Washington. Wade Phillips got two in Denver. More alarming is the turnover rate of defensive coordinators, who had no input in rules changes yet paid for increased scoring with their heads. No fewer than 19 defensive coordinators will take the field with new teams in 1995, and many of them will be forced to teach new ways to tackle.

NEW LOOK

It was a clarification, not a rules change, but defensive players will no longer be able to "dip and rip" with the crown or hairline of the helmet, or face mask. That means a tackler who "loads up" for a kill shot on "a virtually defenseless player" will get flagged for unnecessary roughness. The technique was being used against quarterbacks inside and out of the pocket and against receivers stretching for passes.

The key is "virtually defenseless." Tacklers were raking their helmets into the chins and heads of players while officials stood by contemplating the letter of the previous rule, which restricted such foul play to the crown of the helmet. Everybody recognized it was unnecessary roughness, but officials needed it spelled out more clearly. Quarterbacks were getting dangerously drilled after leaving the pocket (see Wilber Marshall knock out Troy Aikman). Now a quarterback moving out of the pocket gets a chance to reset without being labeled as a runner and fair game for a cheap shot.

"When they purposely bring [the helmet] up and knock the heck out of the guy's head, that's what we want to get out of the game," said New York Giants general manager George Young, co-chairman of the Competition Committee.

The restrictions don't apply in a one-on-one confrontation when a ball carrier is able to protect himself and often deliver the blow to the tackler.

LUCKIEST NEW COACHES

1. Mike Shanahan, Broncos. He got a seven-year contract.
2. Rich Brooks, Rams. How can he be blamed for anything?
3. Ray Rhodes, Eagles. New owner Jeff Lurie's first pet.
4. Tom Coughlin, Jaguars. On job a year already and still undefeated.

UNLUCKIEST NEW COACHES

1. Rich Kotite, Jets. Owner Leon Hess fired Pete Carroll after one year because Hess was getting too old to wait. He's not getting any younger.
2. Mike White, Raiders. Playoffs or else; 9-7 is unacceptable.
3. Dom Capers, Panthers. On a team with many bosses, the top one predicted a Super Bowl in 10 years.
4. Dennis Erickson, Seahawks. Will the Seahawks be as good as his old Washington State teams? Seattle area native will find out if he can go home again.

COACHES ON THE SPOT

1. Sam Wyche, Buccaneers. Sam always



DREW BLEDSOE

J.C. Ridley

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

seems to be on the spot. The Glazer family spent \$192 million for the team, which buys them the right to second-guess the coach.

2. Wayne Fontes, Lions. Barry Sanders, the Michael Jordan of football, waits patiently.

3. Ted Marchibroda, Colts. Quarterback or no quarterback, Ted enters make-or-break season.

4. David Shula, Bengals. Even the patient, conservative Mike Brown has his limits.

5. Norv Turner, Redskins. So does the impatient, impetuous Jack Kent Cooke.

6. Dennis Green, Vikings. Bad publicity doesn't sit well in politically correct Minnesota.

PLAYERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

1. Steve Young. Finally, out from the shadow, this good guy gets to bask in the sun. Suddenly, he is a Hall of Famer enjoying his prime.

2. Drew Bledsoe. Who says there are no quarterbacks? Here's one on

his way to the Super Bowl, ready or not.

3. Junior Seau. He carried his team to the Super Bowl. Just think what he might do when he's healthy.

4. Greg Lloyd. Pittsburgh's Seau. Does more than statistics show.

5. William Floyd. Without Ricky Watters, Floyd's talent blossoms in San Francisco.

STORY OF THE YEAR AFC Wins Super Bowl.

WHICH TEAM? Question of year.

FREE AGENT CONTRACTS OF THE YEAR

1. Mark Stepnoski, Oilers. Four years, \$9.2 million. \$5.5 million guaranteed. Can a center turn around a 2-14 team?

2. Lamar Lathon, Panthers. Five years, \$13.5 million. Not bad for 14 career sacks.

3. Henry Thomas, Lions. Three years, \$7.35 million. \$4 million to sign. How much does he loan coach John Teerlinck, who pushed for him?

4. Chris Gardocki, Colts. Four years, \$2.25 million for the 28th-ranked punter.

SMART MOVES

1. Patriots signing Dave Meggett for \$2 million a year, too high a price for the Giants, who turned to Herschel Walker. If the Patriots make it to the Super Bowl, Meggett will write the ticket. Games are won on one or two plays, and Meggett is a playmaker.

2. Dolphins getting Eric Green. A 285-pound target can't hurt Dan Marino and Green's loss can't help AFC rival Pittsburgh.

3. Falcons trading for Eric Metcalf to replace Andre Rison. If playing slot receiver in the run-and-shoot doesn't allow Metcalf to reach his potential, nothing will.

4. Saints landing cornerback Eric Allen. Turned down last year by Deion Sanders, they came up with the next best thing.

5. Bills adding pass rushers Bryce Paup and Jim Jeffcoat to help Bruce Smith.

DANGEROUS MOVES

1. Browns getting Andre Rison. If he doesn't terrorize nice guy quarterback Vinny Testaverde in the huddle with demands for the ball, he might be worth the steep price and the off-field risk.



Tomasso DeRosa

Heady Times

2. Vikings paying Broderick Thomas \$5.85 million for three years. "We'd trade Broderick Thomas for Henry Thomas any day of the week," said Lions vice-president Chuck Schmidt.

3. 49ers losing Ricky Watters. They went to their first Super Bowl with Ricky Patton as their running back, but the mercurial Watters did provide a nice complement for Steve Young and Jerry Rice.

4. Eagles getting Ricky Watters. If they think he will become as reliable and productive as Emmitt Smith, they know more than most skeptics.

5. Browns trading away Eric Metcalf, who was as dangerous as he was frustrating. The Browns may not know what they've missed until they lose him.



TERANCE MATHIS

OVERRATED

1. Stanley Richard. Scored two touchdowns on returns for Chargers, who didn't think he was worth nearly as much as the Redskins paid him (\$8.5 million for four years).

2. Louis Oliver. "Embarrassed" to be a Bengal. Should have looked in mirror.

3. Alvin Harper. If Harper wanted to be the man to carry his own team, he couldn't have picked a heavier load than the Bucs, where he is liable to find out how fortunate he was to play with Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, and Michael Irvin.

4. Keith Jackson. The Packers could soon find out why Dolphins signed Eric Green.

UNDERRATED

1. Chris Warren, Seahawks. Who is this guy? His 1,545 yards led the AFC and so did his 4.6 yards per carry.

2. Terance Mathis, Falcons. Too small to play full-time for the Jets, Mathis tore up the league in Atlanta's run-and-shoot. He started 16 games and finished third in the league in receptions. Most impressive were his 503 yards after the catch, showing he was more dangerous running than Andre Rison, who had 188 yards after the catch, the latest hot NFL statistic.

3. Andy Heck, Bears. The only \$2 million-plus free agent from last year to help get his team into the playoffs. Of the 14 others who signed for more than \$2 million a year, the Vikings' Chris Hinton and the Packers' Sean Jones are the only ones who also went to the playoffs, but their teams had already been there the previous year without them and didn't get any further with them.

4. Bryant Young, 49ers. "No doubt in my mind Bryant Young should have been defensive player of the year," said 49er linebacker Gary Plummer.

5. John Randle, Vikings. Ask the Vikings if they would trade Henry Thomas for John Randle.

6. Ray Buchanan, Colts. Moved to corner, he returned three of eight interceptions for touchdowns.

THE WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON AWARDS

1. Mike Fox, Panthers. He made only 40 tackles and one sack with the Giants in 16 games, yet the Panthers paid him \$9 million for five years, including a \$2 million bonus.

2. Robert Harris, Giants. Three years, \$4.675 million. \$1.3 million to sign. The guy had 12 tackles with the Vikings, who thought so much of him they tendered him at \$328,000. Even Fox did more.

3. Joel Smeenge, Jaguars. He signed for three years, \$2.8 million. "He drew to an inside straight," said Saints administrator Jim Miller, who watched Smeenge start four games in five years in New Orleans.

INDISPENSABLE

1. Dan Marino. One of these years bound to be his year.

2. Jerry Rice. Still the best.

3. Emmitt Smith. Tough to keep a good man down. How good? Needs only 12 touchdowns to break Tony Dorsett's club record. Still ahead of Walter Payton's rushing pace after first five years.

4. Barry Sanders. What moves remain in the repertoire?

5. Deion Sanders. Wherever. Whatever. Whenever.

TIME RUNNING OUT

1. Reggie White, 34 by end of season. Packers were 9-7 without him and 9-7 both years with him.



DAVE MEGGETT

HAPPIEST DIVISION

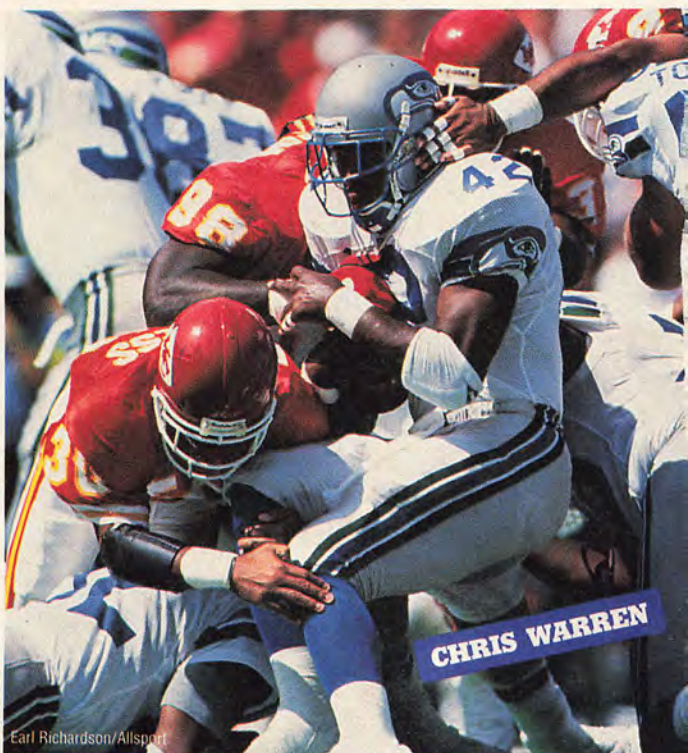
"You don't know how happy I am that Mel Gray is gone," said Packers coach Mike Holmgren after kick returner Gray left Detroit for Houston. "I was talking to Dave Wannstedt and he said the same thing. But we still have to play Houston." Only once, though, not twice.

THAT'S BUDDY

"In the last half of the season, there was no quarterback, including the guy in San Francisco, who played better football than Dave Krieg," said Arizona coach Buddy Ryan.

NUMBER OF COACHES WHO WOULD RATHER HAVE STEVE BEUERLEIN THAN DAVE KRIEG

Twenty-nine.

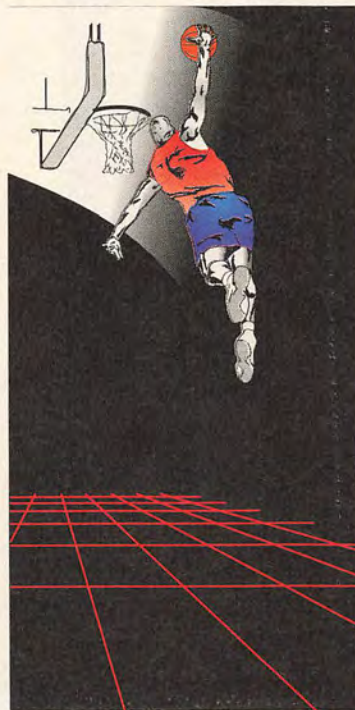


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DAN MARINO

Michael Yelman

2. Warren Moon, age 39. Almost no quarterback ever has been any good after 38.

3. Thurman Thomas, age 29, with high mileage.

4. Herschel Walker, age 33, making NFC East rounds.

INSTANT REPLAY REPLAY

Will it ever go away? Voted out before the 1992 season, replay rears its controversial head every year just as sure as some poor official makes a mistake. Jerry Seeman, the league's supervisor of officials, said that 49 plays during the last regular season should have been reversed. That's one in every 700 plays. But during the postseason, eight plays should have been reversed. That's one in 200 plays. "We had highly visible misses. I don't know if we had more misses," Seeman said.

In the 1993 postseason, there were four plays that should have been reversed. In 1992, it was seven. Those numbers don't count missed plays such as the interference by Deion Sanders against Michael Irvin that wasn't called in the NFC championship game last year. Instant replay couldn't have helped in that case.

Two proposals to bring it back on a limited basis met with lukewarm response. A suggestion to bring it back only for the playoffs was defeated. A suggestion to allow coaches three challenges per half was withdrawn before it got to a vote. Don Shula, co-chairman of the Competition Committee, is a strong proponent of replay, but he wants it all the time, every game. Co-chair George Young remains adamantly opposed to replay in any form, citing delays and another layer of mistakes because humans run the replay system. Every year, there were plays that were incorrectly "corrected" by replay.

A SUGGESTION

Seeding the playoff system to assure the possibility of the best two teams meeting in the Super Bowl is an idea that somehow scares the NFL to death, probably because it's too much like the NCAA tournament. It's really not that scary, because the seeding would be far more objective in football. All that's required is to forget the conferences entirely. They never had the significance of baseball's two leagues anyway because the NFL always had interconference play during the regular season.

The problem with the last Super Bowl was that America already saw the game in December when the 49ers trounced the Chargers by XXIII points, same margin as the Super Bowl. To give itself the chance of a Dallas-San Francisco Super Bowl, all the NFL has to do is allow its current tie-breaker system (or a minor adjustment to it) to bracket playoff teams. The top four get a bye

while #5 plays #12, #6 plays #11, and so on, regardless of conference.

Why are the AFC and NFC so sacrosanct? What about the first 50 years of NFL history, when championship games between the Bears and Redskins or the Giants and Packers were the Super Bowls of their day? Now they are no longer possible. And why not create the possibility for a never-before-possible Packers-Bears Super Bowl?

A new system would open up every possible combination of matchups, without precluding any.

DUMB IDEA

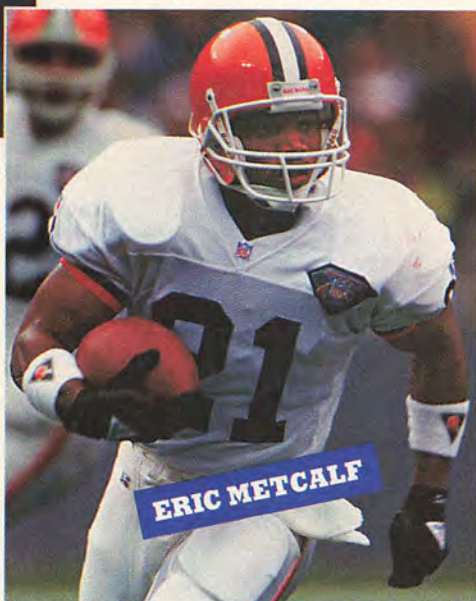
Kansas City owner Lamar Hunt, still a pioneer, wants 16 playoff teams instead of 12 because he thinks the top four shouldn't receive a bye the first week. He also thinks playoff games should be played at neutral sites, such as Birmingham.

If he wants to kill fan interest, that's a good way to start. First, make the regular season as meaningless as it is in hockey, with 8-8 and maybe 7-9 teams routinely making the playoffs. Then take teams away from their home fans, where some playoff games already are tough to sell.

Would Hunt really want to take his Chiefs out of Arrowhead?

MARINO'S YEAR?

Dan Marino has waited since his second season (1984) to return to a Super Bowl. By the numbers, Super Bowl XXX could belong to him. He needs only 1,831 yards passing to break Fran Tarkenton's NFL record of 47,003. He needs only 15 touchdown passes to break Tarkenton's NFL record of 342. He needs only 419 pass attempts to break Tarkenton's NFL record of 6,467. He needs only 83 completions to break Tarkenton's NFL record of 3,686. Those are all below-average numbers for a Marino season. □



ERIC METCALFE

Dave Black



THURMAN THOMAS

Tomaso DeRosa

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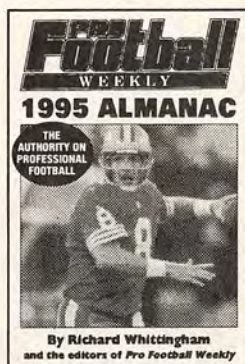


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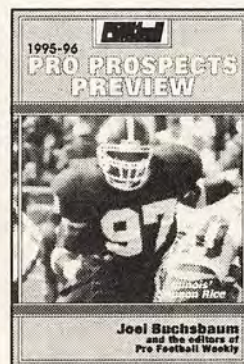
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Grading the Teams

by **FRANK LITSKY**

NEW YORK TIMES

Instant gratification came to the NFL draft this year. In this relatively new era of free agency, in which players often cannot wait to move, most teams seem reluctant to spend high picks on players who would take two or three years to contribute. Why develop them for someone else, the thinking goes.

This was a year with many good quarterbacks, and two were taken among the first five picks: Steve McNair of Alcorn State by the Houston Oilers and Kerry Collins of Penn State by the

Al Kooistra



Ki-Jana Carter

Carolina Panthers. But partly because quarterbacks take time to develop, several others dropped lower than expected, notably John Walsh of Brigham Young. A few months earlier, some football people thought he might be the No. 1 pick overall. Instead, the Cincinnati Bengals rescued him on the seventh and final round, the 213th of the 249 players drafted.

"The draft is more important now than it ever was," said GM George Young of the New York Giants. "You have to find out about a player sooner. You can't sit a guy out for four years and watch him grow."

In all, this year's crop of draftees was better than usual. There were not that many good linebackers and defensive backs, but there were healthy groups of running backs and even offensive tackles. As Bill Tobin, the draft director for the Indianapolis Colts, said, "It's rare when there is this much strength on the offensive line."

With that preponderance of offensive talent, the first five players drafted were on offense, the first time that had happened in 31 years. As expected, the first player taken was Ki-Jana Carter, the Penn State running back. Cincinnati traded up with Carolina to get him.

Carolina and the other expansion team, the Jacksonville Jaguars, received extra picks on every round. Both teams were active participants in the frenzied trading early in the draft. The first round alone produced a record eight deals. Carolina traded itself into three picks in the first round.

One player who dropped quickly was Warren Sapp, the Miami defensive tackle who had seemed certain to be a top-three choice. Instead, reports of drug use made many teams wary, and he lasted until Tampa Bay tapped him with the 12th pick of the first round. Colorado's Kordell Stewart dropped for an odd reason. His pre-draft workouts were so good that teams started to think of him not as a quarterback but as a running back or receiver or defensive end. The Steelers finally took him late in the second round—as a quarterback.

The fastest-rising player in the draft was Mike Mamula, the undersized defensive end from Boston College with gifted athletic abilities. Philadelphia traded up to the seventh pick of the first round to get him. "I think he'll be a fantastic player in the NFL," said Dan Henning, Mamula's coach at B. C. and a former NFL head coach. "Maybe not right away, because he needs to add some size, but he has the skills and the work ethic and the desire to do well."

Here is a report card on the draft, with the grades reflecting draft-related trades for such veterans as Craig Erickson, Mark Brunell, Rob Moore, and Vencie Glenn.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Before the draft, the Cardinals traded their first-round spot to the New York Jets for WR Rob Moore. Consider that part of their draft, and they did not do badly. On the second round, they took WR Frank Sanders (6-2, 200) of Auburn, who is fluid and instinctive without great speed. They needed receivers, and Moore and Sanders will fill that need, but is aging Dave Krieg a good enough quarterback to take advantage? QB Stoney Case (6-2, 205) of New Mexico (third round) is mobile and bright and throws long floaters. Seven picks in the last three rounds included three defensive backs and no linebackers. "An excellent draft," said coach Buddy Ryan. "Of course, if I didn't think so, who would?" (GRADE: B-)

ATLANTA FALCONS

The Falcons picked up RB/KR Eric Metcalf by trading down with Cleveland. They wanted defensive players, especially DE Hugh Douglas, but when he was gone their first-round pick became SS Devin Bush (5-11, 207) of Florida State, a big hitter who has

trouble covering wide receivers. Even he was surprised he went that high, especially with Bobby Taylor, Jimmy Hitchcock, and Orlando Thomas still available. CB Ronald Davis (5-10, 199) of Tennessee (second round) was suspended in his senior year for off-field problems. MLB Lorenzo Styles (6-1, 238) of Ohio State (third round) is a hitter short on technique. But where is that badly needed pass rusher? (GRADE: C)

BUFFALO BILLS

Before the draft, the revolving door kept spinning. Departing: QB Frank Reich, TE Pete Metzelaars, OLB Darryl Talley, LB Marcus Patton, and CB Mickey Washington. Arriving: OLB Bryce Paup, DE Jim Jeffcoat, and NT Ted Washington. Key needs for this rebuilding team were offensive linemen and a quarterback to take over from Jim Kelly in two or three years, and the Bills got them. OT Reuben Brown (6-3, 305) of Pittsburgh (first round) is so quick, he did not allow a sack in 25 college starts. QB Todd Collins (6-4, 222) of Michigan has a stronger arm than Reich. The fourth round produced WR Justin Armour (6-5, 221) and TE Tony Cline (6-5, 252), both from Stanford's sophisticated passing game. (GRADE: B)

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Instead of taking RB Ki-Jana Carter with the first pick of the entire draft, they traded down, and with the fifth pick overall they got the quarterback they wanted: Kerry Collins (6-5, 237) of Penn State. He can learn while Frank Reich holds the fort—if only people will forget that hitch in his delivery. "That's all everyone wanted to talk about, even my

Mike Powell/AllSport USA



Kerry Collins

friends," he said. "I knew it was bad when I pulled up to the Philly airport and the guy who took my bags started to talk to me about my hitch." With four picks in the top 36, the Panthers also chose a Darrell Green clone, CB Tyrone Poole (5-9, 185) of Divi-

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

sion II Fort Valley State (first round), OT Blake Brockermeyer (6-5, 300) of Texas (first round), and pass-rushing DE Shawn King (6-3, 279) of Northeast Louisiana (second round). (GRADE: B+)

CHICAGO BEARS

What the Bears wanted most was a 20-carries-per-game running back like a young Neal Anderson.

Al Kooistra



Rashaan Salaam

They may have found one in the first round in Rashaan Salaam (6-1, 226) of Colorado, the Heisman Trophy winner and a graduate of high school eight-man football. His 4.6 speed turned off some suitors, but the Bears caught him in 4.49 and 4.51, which was fast enough. And look at those 2,055 yards rushing in his senior year. He'll start before his rookie season is over, said coach Dave Wannstedt. DT Patrick Riley (6-5, 277) of Miami (second round) is a good outside pass rusher, but is his surgical knee O.K.? P Todd Sauerbrun (5-10, 200) of West Virginia (second round) could be a 10-year bargain. (GRADE: B)

CINCINNATI BENGALS

The Bengals did little to help themselves in the offseason, but 30 minutes before the draft they pulled off a stunner. They traded up with Carolina for the very first pick, giving up only a first-rounder (the fifth pick overall) and a second-rounder. They used that choice to bolster a running game that produced just five first downs per game last year, grabbing RB Ki-Jana Carter (5-10, 223) of Penn State, who was No. 1 on almost everyone's wish list. He is a Marshall Faulk type: fast, strong, and explosive, and he bounces off would-be tacklers. Second-rounder OT Melvin Tuten (6-6, 302) of Syracuse and sixth-rounder OT Ryan Grigson (6-6, 296) of Purdue should provide blocking. QB John Walsh (6-3, 214) of BYU (seventh round) could be an all-time steal. (GRADE: A-)

CLEVELAND BROWNS

When the Jets picked off TE Kyle Brady of Penn State one spot before the Browns were going to take him on the first round, the Browns seemed to lose their cool. They traded down from 10th to 30th, allowing San Francisco to get WR J.J. Stokes. The Browns finally took OLB Craig Powell (6-4, 224) of Ohio State, who is fast, active, and rangy. He can blitz or cover man-to-man, but he was still picked too high. Eric Zeier of Georgia becomes the Browns' designated quarterback of the future, but if he stood 6-3 instead of 6-0 he would have gone in the first round rather than the third. DE Mike Frederick (6-5, 278) of Virginia (third round) is too slim to help replace Michael Dean Perry and James Jones, the departed defensive tackles. (GRADE: C-)

DALLAS COWBOYS

Free agency took C Mark Stepnoski, WR Alvin Harper, FS James Washington, and much of the special teams. It brought only C Ray Donaldson, a stopgap. Offensive-line depth disappeared. So the Cowboys traded out of the first round, partly to save paying a first-round salary, and with the first of their three second-round picks they took RB Sherman Williams (5-7, 189) of Alabama to back up often-nicked Emmitt Smith. Then came OG Kendell Watkins (6-1, 305), who played tight end at Mississippi State, and OG Shane Hannah (6-5, 345) of Michigan State, who should not be confused with Nate Newton despite his bulk. Where are you, Jimmy Johnson, when we need you? (GRADE: C-)

DENVER BRONCOS

Sure, the Broncos added such free agents as DT Michael Dean Perry, DT James Jones, OLB Britt Hager, and OG Mark Schlereth. But how do you go into a draft without a choice in the first three rounds, even if, a year earlier, you got WR Mike Pritchard, OT Gary Zimmerman, and CB Ben Smith in return? The Broncos' best talent in the draft is OT Jamie Brown (6-8, 349) of Florida A&M (maybe a fourth-round steal), MLB Ken Brown (6-1, 235) of Virginia Tech (fourth round), and OLB Phil Yeboah-Kodie (6-2, 220) of Penn State, born in Ghana and raised in Canada (fifth round). And an eclectic seventh-round pick in MLB Steve Russ (6-5, 237) of Air Force, a flier on a flier because he has applied for pilot training and faced a two-year military commitment. (GRADE: D-)

DETROIT LIONS

Before draft day, the Lions said good-bye to these free agents: QB Dave Krieg, KR Mel Gray, DE/OLB Pat Swilling, LB Broderick Thomas, and RB Derrick Moore. They added DT Henry Thomas and backup QBs Don Majkowski and Donald Hollas. They figured to take CB Ty Law with the 20th pick of the first round, but when DT Luther Elliss (6-5, 291) of Utah was sitting there, they tapped him instead. Elliss is a good inside pass rusher, and although he is still

raw, he will probably replace Kelvin Pritchett as a starter. The Lions sent their second-round pick to San Diego for a No. 1 next year, then made a need pick in the third round in TE David Sloan (6-6, 252) of New Mexico. (GRADE: C+)

GREEN BAY PACKERS

This once-rising team lost a load to free agency, notably OLB Bryce Paup and its best special-teams' players. The Packers dropped Sterling Sharpe, the wonderful but battered wide receiver, and the day before the draft they shipped the promising young QB Mark Brunell to Jacksonville. They struck out on bids for WRs Andre Rison and Rob Moore and TEs Eric Green and Jay Novacek. So they had many holes to fill in the draft and did only fair. CB Craig Newcome (5-11, 185) of Arizona State (first round) is physical. DT Darius Holland (6-5, 303) of Colorado (third round) lacks quickness. If FB William Henderson (6-1, 246) of North Carolina (third round) learns quickly, Edgar Bennett will be moved to tailback. (GRADE: C)

HOUSTON OILERS

Cody Carlson is battered and newcomer Chris Chandler is no world-beater, so QB Steve McNair (6-2, 224) of Alcorn State

Al Kooistra



Steve McNair

seems solid as the third pick overall in the draft. His four-year passing numbers (14,496 yards and 119 touchdowns) are frightening. He has the athletic ability of a Steve Young, an arm strong enough to have thrown 73 yards into the wind, and much learning ahead because he played in a shotgun offense. DT Anthony Cook (6-3, 288) of South Carolina State (second round) played end in college. WR Chris Sanders (6-0, 180, 4.49 speed) of Ohio State was a good third-round pick because the future of Haywood Jeffires and Ernest Givins was uncertain. (GRADE: B)

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

A shaky job except for a pre-draft trade with Tampa Bay that brought QB Craig Erickson for a first-round choice next year. Erickson will start, Jim Harbaugh will sit, and Browning Nagle will keep waiting. In the draft, the Colts wanted a big-time receiver, but when Michael Westbrook, Joey Galloway, and J.J. Stokes were gone early in the first round, they shifted gears and took DT Ellis Johnson (6-2, 290) of Florida. He will be insurance if Steve Emtman's bad knees do him in. TE Ken Dilger (6-5, 251) of Illinois is a second-round reach and FB Zack Crockett (6-2, 244) of Florida State a third-round steal. Not much help for the secondary. (GRADE: B-)

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

The best draft of any team, and not just because of all those extra picks for an

John Williamson

**Tony Boselli**

expansion team. It started the day before the draft, when the Jaguars traded two picks to Green Bay for Mark Brunell, making him the eventual quarterback in their upfield passing game. He should get good blocking from two blue-chippers: OT Tony Boselli (6-7, 323) of USC, a latter-day Anthony Munoz, in the first round and OT Brian DeMarco (6-6, 320) of Michigan State in the second. RB James Stewart (6-1, 217) of Tennessee, another first-rounder, can be a workhorse if he doesn't fumble. QB Rob Johnson (6-3, 220) of Southern Cal was a fourth-round gift. A big-time draft that should help make the Jaguars competitive if not immediate winners. (GRADE: A)

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

This was a team sliding even before Joe Montana retired. Before the draft, the Chiefs tried to boost their secondary with three former Jets: FS Ronnie Lott (aging), SS Brian Washington (questionable attitude), and CB James Hasty (inconsistent). Then they traded down 12 places in the first round for a good package of picks, but spent their new first-rounder on OT Trezelle Jenkins (6-7, 322) of Michigan, a decent pass blocker who must play tougher. But Jenkins over Brian DeMarco and Matt

O'Dwyer? The Chiefs' second-round pick went to Philadelphia in a trade for WR Victor Bailey, and the third-round pick brought WR Tamarick Vanover (5-11, 215), a talent at Florida State but a Canadian League dis-appointment last year. (GRADE: C-)

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

A prime need was a heavy-duty running back, and Rashaan Salaam and Tennessee's James Stewart were available when the Raiders picked in the first round. So the team that does everything differently took RB Napoleon Kaufman (5-8, 185, 4.45 speed) of Washington, a speedball powerhouse who was projected as a second-rounder. C Barret Robbins (6-3, 301) of TCU was surprised to go as high as the second round. The third round brought FB Joe Aska (5-10, 230) of Central State, whose 4.42 speed was the fastest of any back at the combine. He has a glass eye, the result of a childhood accident. (GRADE: C)

MIAMI DOLPHINS

The pre-draft moves brought more speed at wide receiver (Randal Hill for Mark Ingram) and more enthusiasm at tight end (Eric Green for Keith Jackson). The big need became help for an aging offensive line that had lost C Jeff Dellenbach to free agency, and the first two picks brought two well-fed prospects to protect QB Dan Marino. OT Billy Milner (6-5, 290) of Houston (first round) is an agile pass blocker, OG Andrew Greene (6-3, 299) of Indiana (second round) a potent run blocker. Both went higher than projected. Fourth-round sleeper: TE Pete Mitchell (6-2, 242) of Boston College, who is too small and too slow and catches everything. (GRADE: B-)

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

The defense lost DT Henry Thomas, DE Robert Harris, LB Carlos Jenkins, S Todd Scott, and more, and even the free-agency addition of LB Broderick Thompson, CB Charles Mincy, CB Donald Frank, and S Harlon Barnett left defensive gaps. So the Vikings' four picks in the first two rounds offered a tonic. In the first round, they chose DE Derrick Alexander (6-4, 266), a pass rusher from Florida State, and OT Korey Stringer (6-4, 346), an overweight, out-of-shape run blocker from Ohio State. The second round brought secondary help in FS Orlanda Thomas (6-2, 209) of Southwestern Louisiana and CB Corey Fuller (5-10, 197) of Florida State. In the fourth round came QB Chad May (6-1, 220) of Kansas State, the potential successor to Warren Moon. (GRADE: B)

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Cornerbacks were a high priority. So was a productive running back who could carry 20 times a game, something Leonard Russell and Marion Butts have not done consistently in recent years. Cornerback was addressed in the first round in the person of Ty Law (5-11, 196) of Michigan, who can force the run and close well on a receiver. But is he fast enough to stay with a burner? ILB Ted Johnson (6-3, 238) of Colorado (second round) has the toughness coach Bill Parcells loves. The two third-round picks have medical histories: RB Curtis Mar-

tin (5-11, 197) of Pitt missed most of his senior year with a badly sprained ankle, and CB Jimmy Hitchcock (5-10 1/2, 194) of North Carolina had arm injuries. (GRADE: B)

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

The team that once had the best linebackers lost three of them (Sam Mills, Darion Conner, and Joel Smeenge) to free agency. The offensive line needed bracing, too, and the draft addressed those needs. Taking MLB Mark Fields (6-1, 244) of Washington State with the 13th pick of the first round was too high because he is unpolished though athletic. He should fit into the Saints' new 4-3. Ray Zellers (5-11, 228) of Notre Dame (second round) is more agile than most fullbacks. OT Mike Verstegen (6-5, 305) of Wisconsin (third round) will be better when he becomes stronger. WR Lee DeRamus (6-0, 200) of Wisconsin (sixth round) missed last season with a broken leg but could be a bargain-basement steal. (GRADE: B-)

NEW YORK GIANTS

The long wish list included help for an aging offensive line, defensive backs because there was little depth, and a pass rusher for a line shaky even before DT Mike Fox left. The first-round pick

Al Messerschmidt

**Tyrone Wheatley**

was none of the above. When RB Tyrone Wheatley (6-0, 232) of Michigan slipped down, the grateful Giants remembered his three straight 1,000-yard rushing seasons and picked him off. He becomes insurance if Rodney Hampton gets more nagging injuries or leaves after next season. OT Scott Gragg (6-8, 315) of Montana (second round) has a great work ethic. One safety came in the draft (Rodney Young of LSU, 6-1 and 210) on the third round and another in a trade (Vencie Glenn of Minnesota). (GRADE: B)

NEW YORK JETS

Replacements were needed for three offensive linemen (OT Jeff Criswell, OG Dwayne White, and C Jim Sweeney), a wide receiver (Art Monk), three dumped defensive backs

(S Ronnie Lott, S Brian Washington, and CB James Hasty), and a defensive lineman (DE Jeff Lageman)—all starters. Leon Hess, the club's 80-year-old owner, said he wanted to win while he could enjoy it. So the night before the draft, the Jets traded WR Rob Moore to Arizona, moving up to the ninth pick overall, and surprisingly took TE Kyle Brady (6-6, 257) of Penn State. Rich Kotite, the Jets' new coach, said he would use Brady and holdover Johnny Mitchell in a two-tight-end offense. DE Hugh Douglas (6-2, 265), a raw pass rusher from Central State of Ohio, came later in the first round, OG Matt O'Dwyer (6-4, 302) of Northwestern in the second.

(GRADE: B)

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Free agency brought two running backs (TB Ricky Watters and FB Kevin Turner) and two blockers for them (OG Raleigh McKenzie and OT Joe Sims). The draft targets were defensive linemen and cornerbacks, and

Tomasso de Rosa



Mike Mamula

five draft-day trades contributed mightily. After a first-round maneuver, the Eagles took DE Mike Mamula (6-5, 248), a pass rusher from Boston College who plays like a stronger and faster Charles Haley. He ran 40 yards in 4.58 seconds (better than some of the best running backs), bench-pressed 225 pounds 26 times (better than the best offensive lineman, Tony Boselli), and vertical-leaped 38 inches (higher than the top cornerback, Ty Law). The second round provided CB Bobby Taylor (6-3, 202) of Notre Dame, who has the talent if not always the desire, and OT Barrett Brooks (6-4, 305) of Kansas State.

(GRADE: B+)

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

The needs were a tight end to replace Eric Green, an offensive guard to replace Duval Love, a defensive back, and maybe a young quarterback. All arrived. First round: TE Mark Bruener (6-4, 251) of Washington, a good receiver from a passing offense. Second round: QB Kordell Stewart (6-1, 212, 4.46 speed) of Colorado, a marvelous athlete who a year from now may push Neil O'Don-

nell for the job. Third round: OG Brenden Stai (6-4, 304) of Nebraska, who has the quickness for the Steelers' trapping offense. Sleeper: CB Barron Miles (5-9, 172) of Nebraska, who is thin and slow and blocked seven kicks in college.

(GRADE: A-)

ST. LOUIS RAMS

Ten days before the draft, NFL club owners approved the Rams' move from Los Angeles (actually Anaheim). Then this slumping team looked for wide receivers, offensive linemen, cornerbacks, pass rushers, and a quarterback of the future. They got no quarterback and no running back, and their only receiver came in the last round. It was still a good draft because their first three picks were the three players they wanted most. DE Kevin Carter (6-6, 274, 4.78 speed), the sixth choice overall, is a Chris Doleman or Charles Mann in-the-making. With OT Jackie Slater close to Social Security, two offensive linemen arrived in the second round: OT Zach Wiegert (6-4, 311) of Nebraska and OG Jesse James (6-4, 325) of Mississippi State. Did someone say Jesse James was a steal?

(GRADE: B)

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

This was Bobby Beathard, the Chargers' fast-moving GM, at his wildest. He ended up with 13 picks, the most in the draft, but he did weird things to get there. He traded his first-round choice to Carolina for a two, a three, and a four. On the second round, he reached for CB Terrance Shaw (5-11, 189, 4.49 speed), who has great promise. Later in the second round, he traded next year's No. 1 to Detroit for its No. 2 now and took RB Terrell Fletcher (5-8, 195) of Wisconsin, a situational runner at best. Another second-round pick brought WR Jimmy Oliver (5-10, 175) of Texas Christian, a track sprinter ranked 48th among wide receivers by the Ourlad's draft service. Between them, the two fourth-rounders have a torn-up knee and a broken leg.

(GRADE: C)

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

When the dealing was done, the 49ers had only four draft choices. Give them an A for their first-round pick, WR J.J. Stokes of UCLA, and not much for the rest. They wanted a running back to replace Ricky Watters and Dexter Carter and offensive linemen to replace their goodies but oldies. But their big target was Stokes (6-5, 217), who would move in full-time when 32-year-old Jerry Rice or 33-year-old John Taylor was done. They traded their first-round pick (No. 30 overall), this year's third and fourth, and next year's first-round pick to Cleveland for the Browns' first-round pick, No. 10 overall, and took Stokes, who has everything except blazing speed. Sixth-round sleeper: DE/ OLB Antonio Armstrong (6-1, 230), a speed rusher from Texas A&M.

(GRADE: B)

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Dennis Erickson, the new head coach, wanted a swift receiver for QB Rick Mirer, and on the first round he got the one he treasured in Joey Galloway (5-10, 188) of Ohio State, with frightening 4.16 speed. Galloway relies on speed more than moves. He can bench-press 400 pounds,

vertical-leap 40 inches. He returns punts. He has a great attitude. Have we left anything out? TE Christian Fauria (6-4, 243) of Colorado (second round) has good technique. With Brian Blades on the other side

David L. Greene



Joey Galloway

and newly added Ricky Proehl as a control receiver, Seattle's passing game looks much better. MLB Jason Kyle (6-2, 245) was a good fourth-round pick because free agency took LBs Rufus Porter and Rod Stephens.

(GRADE: B-)

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

When new reports of drug use came out the day before the draft, DT Warren Sapp of Miami slipped all the way to No. 12 on the first round before the Bucs took him. He quickly agreed to a four-year contract that required frequent drug testing. Sapp (6-1, 280) is a superb player who gets great pass-rushing penetration. OLB Derrick Brooks (6-0, 218) of Florida State (first round) plays tough for his size, but that size may be a problem. For a team that lost CB Marty Carter and S Tony Covington to free agency, help came from S Melvin Johnson (5-11, 194) of Kentucky in the second round and CB Jerry Wilson (5-10, 178) of Southern University and CB Clifton Abraham (5-8, 185) of Florida State in the fifth.

(GRADE: C+)

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

They needed a wide receiver because they had parted with Art Monk, Gary Clark, Ricky Sanders, and Desmond Howard over the last two seasons. They needed a quick pass rusher. They needed a defensive tackle who could stop the run for a team that ranked next-to-last against the run a year ago. With the fourth pick of the first round, they could have had that pass rusher in DE Kevin Carter, but they took WR Michael Westbrook (6-3, 210) of Colorado, a Michael Irvin type who has size, speed, and strength and can block. C Cory Raymer (6-3, 293) of Wisconsin (second round) has first-round ability and attitude. S Darryl Pounds (5-10, 177) will return kicks.

(GRADE: B)



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5th	\$ 1,000	\$ 75
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 players in Group 10 = 5 points per yard
 Interceptions Thrown = minus 50 points
 Two Point Conversion = 20 points

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011	<input type="checkbox"/> AIKMAN, T.	DAL	14	3,243	021	<input type="checkbox"/> BROWN, D.	NYG	15	3,183	031	<input type="checkbox"/> BETTIS, J.	RAM	16	2,929
012	<input type="checkbox"/> BLEDSOE, D.	NE	16	5,165	022	<input type="checkbox"/> ERICKSON, C.	TB	15	4,005	032	<input type="checkbox"/> FAULK, M.	IND	16	5,033
013	<input type="checkbox"/> CUNNINGHAM, R.	PHI	14	4,714	023	<input type="checkbox"/> EVERETT, J.	NO	16	4,809	033	<input type="checkbox"/> FOSTER, B.	PIT	11	2,074
014	<input type="checkbox"/> ELWAY, J.	DEN	14	5,031	024	<input type="checkbox"/> HOSTETLER, J.	LA	16	4,684	034	<input type="checkbox"/> MEANS, N.	SD	16	4,204
015	<input type="checkbox"/> FAVRE, B.	GB	16	6,272	025	<input type="checkbox"/> HUMPHRIES, S.	SD	15	4,131	035	<input type="checkbox"/> SANDERS, B.	DET	16	5,282
016	<input type="checkbox"/> GEORGE, J.	ATL	16	4,836	026	<input type="checkbox"/> KELLY, J.	BUF	14	4,297	036	<input type="checkbox"/> SMITH, E.	DAL	15	5,402
017	<input type="checkbox"/> MARINO, D.	MIA	16	6,004	027	<input type="checkbox"/> MIRER, R.	SEA	13	2,922	037	<input type="checkbox"/> THOMAS, T.	BUF	15	3,858
018	<input type="checkbox"/> MOON, W.	MIN	15	4,875	028	<input type="checkbox"/> O'DONNELL, N.	PIT	14	3,272	039	<input type="checkbox"/> WARREN, C.	SEA	16	4,892
019	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUNG, S.	SF	16	7,173	029	<input type="checkbox"/> TESTAVERDE, V.	CLE	14	3,194	040	<input type="checkbox"/> WATERS, R.	PHI	16	4,697

Note: PTS=Points based on 1994 final statistics using the Pro Draft scoring system.

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THE TOP '96 PRO PROSPECTS

by JIM CARLEY

Perhaps the NFL draft is much like life: The more it changes, the more it stays the same. In April it was Penn State's Ki-Jana Carter who left school early and was the first overall selection. Next spring, it could be another junior running back, Texas A&M's Leeland McElroy, at the head of the draft class. Many NFL observers consider Carter and McElroy franchise-type backs along the lines of Emmitt Smith.

Wary of upsetting NCAA coaches, pro scouts and personnel men prefer to remain anonymous when discussing undergraduate players. The powerful McElroy has turned virtually everyone's head. He has never started a game at running back because of the presence of Greg Hill, a first-round pick by Kansas City in 1994, and Rodney Thomas, a third-round choice by Houston in 1995, the last two years. That hasn't kept him a secret, however. Now McElroy has the spotlight to himself and superstardom is being predicted. He has averaged 42.4 yards per kickoff return and 8.5 and 5.4 yards per carry as the backup the last two years. He's almost too good to be true, according to one scout.

"Guys like McElroy stick out so much, and you go in thinking he should be so great, that it's hard for him to measure up to his reputation," the scout said. "That happened to Marshall Faulk at San Diego State after his great sophomore year. People came to watch him expecting him to be the greatest player they'd ever seen on every play, and they'd find little faults with him and go away disappointed. Of course, he turned out to be every bit as good as they had originally thought. McElroy may suffer from that. His reputation will be hard to live up to no matter what he does this season."

Other scouts feel certain that McElroy will be so good, he'll have to come out early because he'll be almost assured of being the No. 1 pick. "There's no doubt he'll be in the top 10 and probably the top five," one NFC personnel director said.

Perhaps the top running back behind McElroy is Auburn's powerful Stephen Davis. The 6-2, 233-pounder rushed for 1,263 yards to lead the SEC last fall and the pros love his speed. "He ran a 10.37 in the 100 meters in high school," one scout said. "He doesn't try to give you a lot of East-West moves. He just makes that one move and he's gone. If I were to compare him to anyone, it would be [former South Carolina Heisman Trophy winner] George Rogers."

Minnesota's Chris Darkins piled up 1,443 yards and 11

touchdowns in '94 and Ohio State's Eddie George had 1,442 and 12. "Darkins is the one I like right now," one GM said. "He's got pretty good hands and he can make you miss. He's not as big as Davis, but he's an excellent runner."

If another junior running back decides to come out, it could be Nebraska's Lawrence Phillips, who is compared to former Husker Heisman winner Mike Rozier. Phillips had 1,722 yards in '94, breaking the Big Eight mark for sophomores.

Texas Christian's Andre Davis, a senior, had a similar breakout season with 1,494 yards. "He may not be as fast as some of the running backs overall," one scout said, "but his quickness really sets him apart."

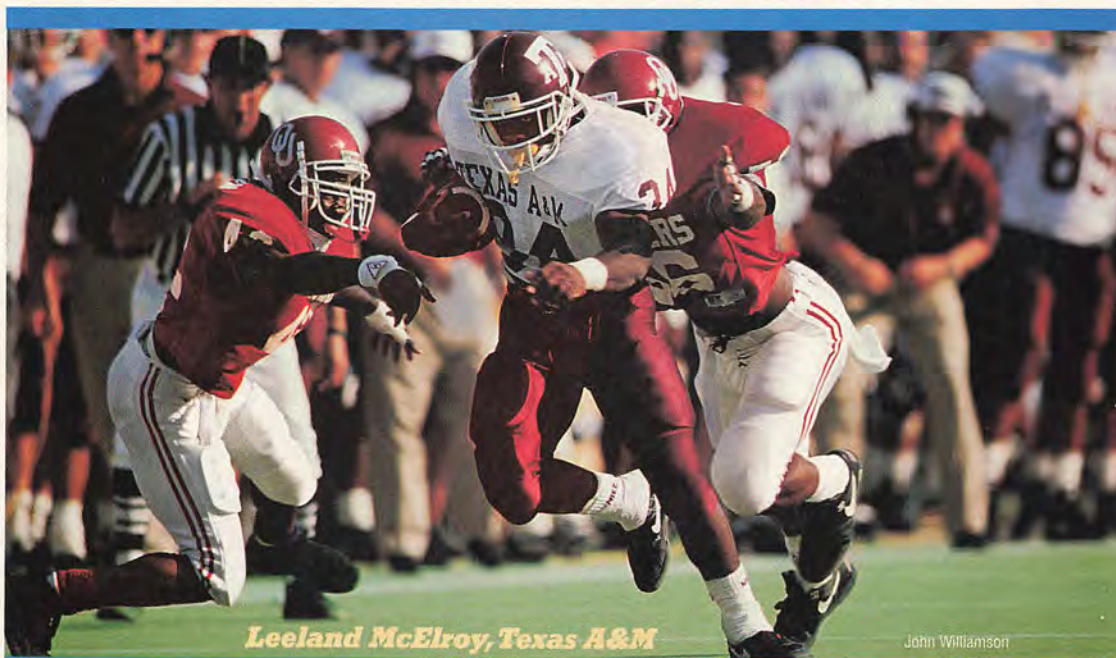
There will be other backs to choose from next spring, but it is shaping up as a class deep in superb receivers. USC's Keyshawn Johnson may be just a step ahead of the field after catching 66 passes for 1,362 yards and nine TDs in '94. "He's as fine a receiver as I've ever been around," said Trojans coach John Robinson. "He seems to fit the new mold of wide receiver: big, physical, and extremely athletic. He has all the gifts a wide receiver needs, plus he has an intangible quality that makes him as competitive and star-like as anyone I've ever known."

Penn State's Bobby Engram won the inaugural Fred Biletnikoff Award as the nation's top receiver. He caught 52 passes for 1,029 yards, the first Nittany Lion receiver ever to go over the 1,000-yard mark. Engram averages a touchdown every 5.2 catches. "He's a big-play guy," one scout said. "I would love to have had him last year. He's not tall [5-9], but he can do it all."

Notre Dame's Derrick Mayes caught 47 passes for 847 yards and 11 TDs. "He makes the acrobatic catch and he makes the catch in a crowd," one GM said. "He's a can't-miss. I think he's better at the same point of his career than [former Irish all-star] Lake Dawson was. He's more polished."

Other receivers likely to go in the first round include Michigan's Amani Toomer, who is being compared with former Wolverines Anthony Carter and Desmond Howard; UCLA's Kevin Jordan, who stepped in when J.J. Stokes was hurt and caught 73 passes for 1,228 yards and seven TDs; and California's Iheanyi Uwaezuoke, in line to become the first Nigerian-born player to be a first-round NFL pick after he caught 56 passes for 716 yards and five touchdowns. Georgia's Brice Hunter caught 59 passes for 799 yards and seven TDs in '94. "People thought he would come out last year," said one scout. "He's not a blazer, but he's got good size and speed and can catch it." Mississippi State receiver Eric Moulds was the top kick returner in the nation (32.8-yard average). The Bulldogs also have an eye-catching cornerback in Walt Harris. "Moulds wears No. 1 and Harris wears No. 2," one scout said. "And that could very well be the rounds they both get picked in."

The top pro quarterback may again be from the Southwestern Athletic Conference. Alcorn State's Steve McNair was the first quarterback taken in '94. This fall, Grambling's Kendrick Nord may be every bit as good, at least with the pass. Though he's not the scrambler McNair is, in the season opener for both teams last year, Nord actually outdueled McNair in the air to lead the Tigers to a wild 62-56 victory. While McNair threw for 534 yards and five touchdowns, Nord passed for 485 yards and seven TDs.



Leeland McElroy, Texas A&M

John Williamson

Illinois has two dominating linebackers, Simeon Rice and Kevin Hardy. "They're almost certain to both go in the first round," said one NFC scout. "How high depends on which teams need what. If you need a line-backer, you take Hardy first. If you need a defensive end-type, you take Rice."

Not far behind the two Illini standouts is Georgia's Randall Godfrey. Scouts are only waiting for him to gain consistency.

1996 MOCK FIRST ROUND NFL DRAFT

1. *Leeland McElroy, RB, Texas A&M
2. Simeon Rice, LB, Illinois
3. Kevin Hardy, LB, Illinois
4. Keyshawn Johnson, WR, USC
5. Brandon Sanders, SS, Arizona
6. Bryan Stoltzberg, C, Colorado
7. Stephen Davis, RB, Auburn
8. Bobby Engram, WR, Penn State
9. Kendrick Nord, QB, Grambling
10. Derrick Mayes, WR, Notre Dame
11. Fred Miller, OT, Baylor
12. Chris Darkins, RB, Minnesota
13. Amani Toomer, WR, Michigan
14. Kevin Jordan, WR, UCLA
15. Dusty Ziegler, C, Notre Dame
16. Eric Moulds, WR/KR, Mississippi St.
17. Randall Godfrey, LB, Georgia
18. *Lawrence Phillips, RB, Nebraska
19. Jeff Hartings, OG, Penn State
20. Ray Mickens, CB, Texas A&M
21. Iheanyi Uwaezuoke, WR, California
22. Jimmy Herndon, OT, Houston
23. Brice Hunter, WR, Georgia
24. Marcus Jones, DT, North Carolina
25. * Cedric Jones, DE, Oklahoma
26. Eddie George, RB, Ohio State
27. Jonathan Ogden, OT, UCLA
28. Tedy Bruschi, DE, Arizona
29. Clay Shiver, C, Florida State
30. Andre Davis, RB, TCU

POTENTIAL FIRST-ROUNDERS

Donnie Edwards, LB, UCLA
 Adrian Robinson, SS, Baylor
 Reggie Tongue, FS, Oregon State
 Danny Kanell, QB, Florida State
 Pete Kendall, OT, Boston College
 James Walker, DB, North Carolina St.
 Walt Harris, CB, Mississippi State
 Bubba Miller, OT, Tennessee
 Jason Odom, OT, Florida
 Michael Cheever, C, Georgia Tech
 Kerry Hicks, DT, Colorado
 Jerod Cherry, CB, California

SLEEPERS

Daryl Gardener, DE, Baylor
 Israel Iheanyi, DE, USC
 Charlie Jones, WR, Fresno State
 Steve Taneyhill, QB, South Carolina
 David Milwee, OL, Tulsa
 Mike Maxwell, QB, Nevada
 Marco Battaglia, TE, Rutgers
 Shawn Walters, RB, USC
 Ryan Leahy, OG, Notre Dame
 *Brad Otten, QB, USC

* Junior

The highest-rated defensive back is Arizona safety Brandon Sanders, whose only question mark is his size (5-10, 177). "He's a big hitter and he's got real good speed," one personnel man said. Ray Mickens is also short on size (5-8, 177) but not on talent. With exceptional jumping ability, the Texas A&M cornerback has had some of his best career games against taller players such as Texas's Lovell Pinkney and Texas Tech's Lloyd Hill, and scouts believe his size won't hold him back in the NFL.

Arizona's Tedy Bruschi has 33 sacks in 24 career games. His problem is he's listed at only 6-1, and most scouts doubt he's that tall. At least one, however, thinks that doesn't matter. "Sure, he's undersized," the scout said, "but he can rush the passer. They talk about Derrick Thomas from Kansas City being such a great rusher, but this guy is in the same mold. [Miami tackle] Warren Sapp is 6-foot. That didn't bother people with him. Bruschi does a helluva job coming off the ball. I wouldn't be surprised to see him go real high."

Though it's risky trying to predict this far in advance that an underclassman will come out, Oklahoma junior end Cedric Jones (6-4, 288) is being compared at OU to former star, and new Pro Football Hall of Famer, Lee Roy Selmon. Jones led the Big Eight in sacks with 14, a school record, and scouts refer to him in terms such as "dominating" and "overpowering."

The next best pass rusher might be North Carolina's Marcus Jones, who had 7.5 sacks, 21 pressures, and 12.5 tackles for losses last year to win all-ACC honors. His size (6-6, 278) and speed (4.7) make him a definite pro prospect.

The top offensive linemen in the '96 draft appear to be centers. Colorado's Bryan Stoltzberg could turn out to be the best one. He has not allowed a sack in two years, or 1,625 plays. "He's a big kid who is very strong and intense," one scout said. "I think he's a better prospect than the two who came out of Colorado early last year [Heisman Trophy back Rashaan Salaam and defensive tackle Shannon Clavelle]."

Notre Dame center Dusty Zeigler (6-6, 288) switched from guard last season to solidify the Irish line. He could play either position or tackle in the pros. Florida State center Clay Shiver is short (6-2) for a lineman, but one scout says, "We seem to be going more for the short centers now. I think he can play."

The best offensive tackle could be Baylor's Fred Miller (6-7, 294). "He is strong and he can run," one scout said. "You have to like a guy who can move around that well." Several other tackles could break into the first round, but the most promising are UCLA's Jonathan Ogden (6-8, 315) and Houston's Jimmy Herndon (6-8, 280). The top guard is Penn State's Jeff Hartings (6-3, 280), the cornerstone of a line that allowed only three sacks all season. □



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On The Spot...

The time is now for these quarterbacks who are working against the clock.

by **LARRY WEISMAN** USA TODAY

The seasons seem to last a lifetime but the lifetime hardly lasts at all. The game is there—so intense, so real—and then it's gone. Yards, pass attempts, completions—they measure only one aspect of what every quarterback strives for. Yet 40,000 yards or 300 touchdown passes never seem the equal of just one Super Bowl victory. The time is always now. When better to win an NFL title, to secure the crowning measure of achievement, than now, in this moment? For Warren Moon, for Dan Marino, for John Elway, for Jim Kelly,

Moon has never even made it to the NFL's biggest show. Not in 10 years with some promising Houston teams, not last year in his first season with Minnesota. For him, and for a number of other quarterbacks, 1995's coming battles could be watershed or Waterloo.

Moon joined the NFL from the Canadian Football League in 1984, a year after the NFL draft produced the famed class of '83 that included Elway, Kelly, and Marino. Six quarterbacks in all were first-round picks that spring. Only those three remain, and not one has won a Super Bowl. Four defeats for Kelly and Buffalo. Three defeats for Elway and Denver. One for Marino and Miami. Another of that '83 class, Tony Eason, lined up for New England against a devastating Chicago defense in



WARREN MOON

Al Kooistra

JEFF HOSTETLER & RANDALL CUNNINGHAM

For so many of the others staring at the challenge of the new season, stability is a mere dream. Randall Cunningham, entering his 12th year with Philadelphia, has managed one playoff victory. He now starts over, in a new offense, under his third head coach, Ray Rhodes. Jeff Hostetler, who gutted out the New York Giants' Super Bowl XXV win against Buffalo, begins his second season with the Los Angeles Raiders under a new coach, Mike White.

These are not young men, not in the football sense. Hostetler is in his 12th season, age 34. Cunningham, he of the mountainous peaks and bottomless valleys of performance, is 32. They don't hear the ticking of the clock. They can see the pages flying off the calendar.

For Hostetler and Cunningham, change can't be worse than what they endured in 1994. Hostetler argued bitterly with fired coach Art Shell about the offensive schemes of assistant Tom Walsh, who was also let go. Cunningham complained constantly about the limits placed on him by Rich Kotite's system. Kotite was let go.

White wants to bring some precision and snap to an offense constantly sabotaging itself with foolish penalties. And he'd like to give Hostetler a bit more of the control he always seemed to want over play calls, a little autonomy to be himself and let his personality show. "It's not a frivolous



Robert Leiter

time marches (or hobbles) on. They persevere, they succeed, they earn honors and awards. But none has won a Super Bowl and none will win the war with time.

WARREN MOON

Moon knows it better than most. "The Super Bowl means a lot more to me now," said Moon, who will be 39 when the NFL's 76th season reaches its midpoint. "It is the ultimate. I've been on a lot of winning teams, and what's left for me to do is win that and my career will be complete. It would be the highlight of what I think has been a pretty good career."



James D. Smith

Super Bowl XX. No victories in nine tries. Kelly, Elway, and Marino at least enjoyed remarkable stability within their organizations. They've played for no other NFL team.

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On The Spot

thing," said White. "If you're good at it, do it. The key to success in the game is preparation, and if the player feels good about a certain thing by the time you get to Sunday, why not use it? Why not let him pick the number?"

Long a tutor of quarterbacks, White will have Jim Fassel, Denver's offensive coordinator last season, implementing more of the West Coast offense. But he knows with the speedy receivers who complement Tim Brown that some of the vaunted vertical game must be present. "My whole career has been that way, dating back to Joe Roth hitting Wesley Walker with the long bomb 100 years ago at Berkeley," White said, harking back to his days at the University of California. "Those decisions are based on personnel."

Rhodes also hopes to transplant the San Francisco style of offense to resurrect Cunningham, who wound up benched for two games last season as the Eagles lost their last seven. The quarterback's soul seems as important as his body. "I've seen this system work with guys who had nowhere

"Philosophically, we'll be very similar," Shanahan said. "John feels comfortable with the shotgun, so we'll use that, where we didn't in San Francisco. I've been around him enough to know what he can do and what he can't do. As long as he's in shape, I don't have any questions about what he can do."

In another of those odd quirks of fate in the NFL, the assistant coach to whom Elway's care and feeding falls is Gary Kubiak, Elway's former backup. Kubiak worked on the technical aspects of Steve Young's game while Shanahan was the 49ers' offensive coordinator. He'll be Denver's offensive coordinator, but Shanahan figures to design the game plans while Kubiak keeps Elway finely tuned.

"The quarterback position is probably the poorest-coached segment of most teams. It demands a full-time coach," said Shanahan, who wants to reproduce the type of results with Elway that he and Kubiak got with Young. "Having Gary come in and spend time with Steve on footwork and technique gave me time to work more on the Xs and Os. I thought it was a big plus for us last year, for the quarterback to have the extra time with a quarterback coach, to know exactly what we wanted from him in the way of small intricacies. The coach was on top of it and the player was aware of it."

JIM KELLY

No one ever questioned whether Elway or Kelly or Marino could carry an offense. What none could do was overcome suspect defenses that couldn't withstand their opponents' punishing running games.

They can only be heartened by their respective club's

free-agent pursuits, shopping excursions geared at plugging those many leaks. "I figured if I got my knee hurt, they'd go out and get me a couple of offensive linemen," Kelly joked. "Instead they got defensive linemen."

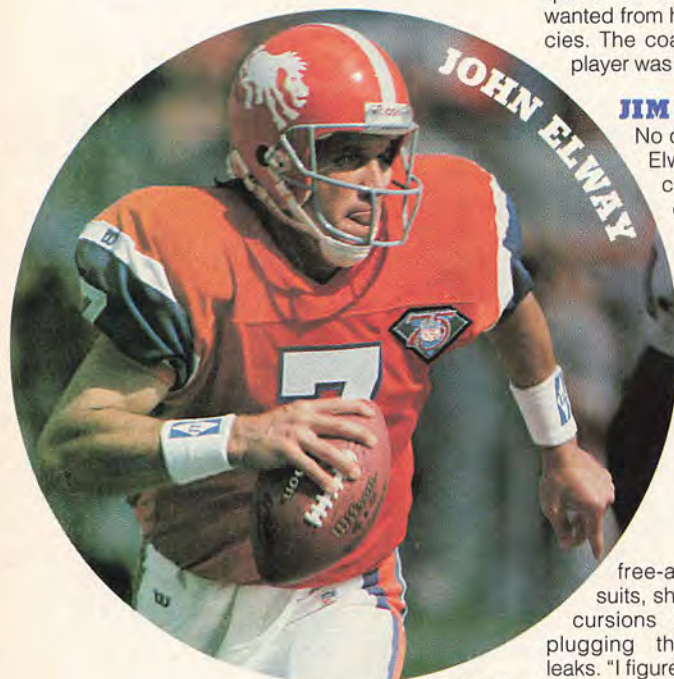
Wade Phillips, fired as head coach in Denver mostly because of defensive failings, becomes Buffalo's defensive coordinator. The Bills will move into a 4-3 and away from their bend-but-don't-break mindset that boomed or broke on turnovers. They added pass-rush oomph with defensive end Jim Jeffcoat and linebacker Bryce Paup and that, more than anything of recent vintage, cheers Kelly.

"Management went out and got people on defense. That's a big plus," Kelly said. "Speaking 100 percent from my heart, this is probably the best I've felt mentally about our future in the last couple of years. I see a defensive team that can really help us and I'm very excited about that."

Kelly also has worked hard on conditioning and rehabilitating his left knee after post-season ligament surgery. He's looking for the little extra edges because he simply cannot do some things he never gave a second thought to five years ago. "Your arm doesn't stay the same strength and I'd be lying if I said it did, but I feel it's just as strong. Hey, I used to throw it 75 yards. Now I throw it 65," he said.

Hand it off, win with defense. The aging gunslingers ultimately see the wisdom. So does a smart front office. The Broncos, last in the NFL in total defense and pass defense in 1994, added defensive tackles Michael Dean Perry and James Jones in a two-day spending spree that will pay those two \$12 million over three years. The Broncos also snapped up cornerbacks Eric Thomas and Lionel Washington. "We've helped ourselves with defensive tackles and corners, and that's where it starts," Shanahan said.

Those defenses, with their situation substitutions and blitzes, only add to the wear and tear of veteran quarterbacks. Kelly's knee could limit him in early training camp work and Marino elected not to have more surgery done on the right Achilles' tendon he tore in 1993. He played on a very painful ankle and may continue to suffer with it. "I have to improve the



Paul Jasienski

close to Randall's athletic ability," Rhodes said. "Randall Cunningham should thrive in this system."

Cunningham expects as much. "I'm happy again. It's like I've been drafted again. I've got a rebirth," he said.

JOHN ELWAY

The dialogue sounds much the same in Denver, where one version of the West Coast offense gives way to another remixed by Mike Shanahan. The former Broncos assistant, long Elway's confidant, knows the quarterback thoroughly and can't wait to feed him the Xs and Os.



Tomasso DeRosa

atrophy on my calf and improve my ankle. I want to improve my ability to move," Marino said. That elicited cackles from his friend Kelly, who cracked: "He doesn't have that Pittsburgh swagger anymore."

continued

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NEIL O'DONNELL

The swaggering in Pittsburgh last January belonged mainly to the Steelers, whose overconfidence against San Diego helped deny them a shot at the Super Bowl. While Pittsburgh's strength remains on the defensive side of the ball and its running game keys the offensive attack, Neil O'Donnell will begin to find himself confronting the same issues as his elders. Among AFC teams, only Indianapolis threw the ball fewer times than Pittsburgh in 1994. O'Donnell ranked seventh in the AFC in passer rating, but 10 other quarterbacks threw more than his 13 touchdown passes. The Steelers ranked 12th of the 14 teams in first downs by passing and were 11th in percentage of offense gained by passing. The flip side? The Steelers ask their quarterback to take good care of the football and not make mistakes. O'Donnell threw only nine interceptions.

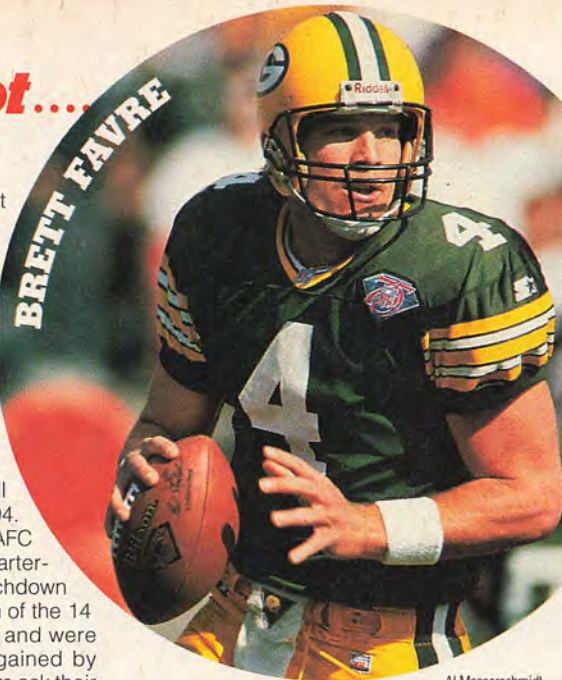
BRETT FAVRE

Another quarterback who made immense strides in eliminating errors in 1994 was Brett Favre. The young Green Bay playmaker stopped forcing passes, showed greater command of the Packers' system, and threw 33 touchdown passes against 14 interceptions. Only Steve Young, with 35, had more scores through the air. Eighteen of Favre's, though, went to Sterling Sharpe, who is now a memory. Offseason surgery to repair loose vertebrae in his neck and the probability that he'd not play this year led the Packers to ask Sharpe to take a huge pay cut. When he refused, the Packers released him and Sharpe filed a grievance.

The Packers then traded with Miami for Mark Ingram and signed tight end Keith Jackson, but this hardly balanced the equation. Ingram has never had a double-digit touchdown season, either with the Dolphins or the New York Giants. Jackson, who has one year left on his contract, says he will retire if the Packers don't commit to a longer deal.

Favre will confront a changed offense simply on personnel and can only hope the Packers run the ball with more effectiveness. They'll move Edgar Bennett from fullback, where he excelled as a receiver, to running back, but they have to wonder if

he's the answer. And they need answers. In both of their last two seasons, they've knocked off Detroit in the playoffs and then been eliminated in fairly one-sided games by Dallas. There's a next level they must get to and Favre may not have the supporting cast to elevate the Packers.



Al Messerschmidt



Pete J. Groh

JEFF GEORGE & JIM EVERETT

Meeting and exceeding expectations. Those concepts no doubt will dog Atlanta's Jeff George and New Orleans's Jim Everett. Both go into their second season with those clubs and both showed signs in 1994 of pulling their games

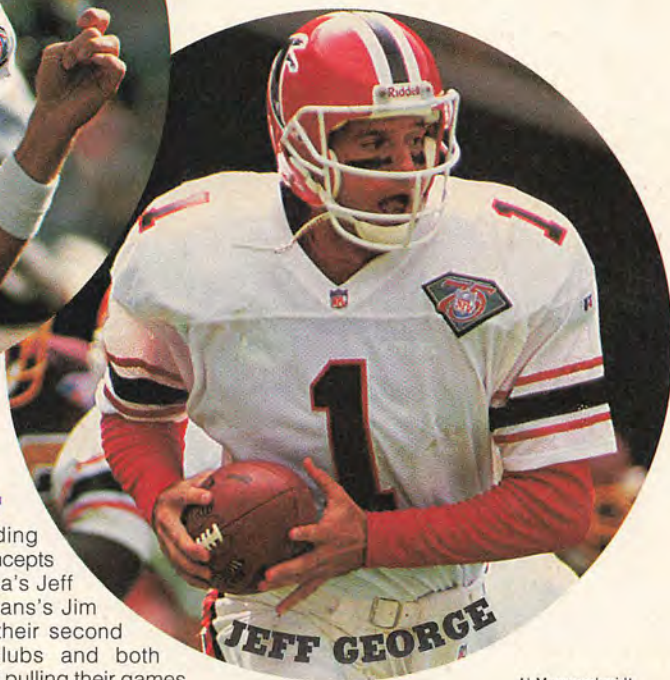
together. George hit career highs in touchdown passes (23), passing yards, completions, attempts, and passer rating (83.3) in Atlanta's Red Gun offense. But he loses Andre Rison, with ex-Chief J.J. Birden stepping in and ex-Brown Eric Metcalf maybe working as a slot receiver. No one questions George's arm or physical gifts. Attitude, leadership, and cool remain hot-button issues.

"Fundamentally, he has never established himself," said former San Francisco coach Bill Walsh. "His skill level is not what it could be. He has never taken full advantage of his abilities. He has the potential to be a great player. He just has to settle down and commit himself to a long-term look at himself and his game."

Everett, dumped by the Los Angeles Rams, begins his 10th season with optimism. He ranked third in the NFC in passing last fall and carried the weight, despite an offense saddled with the NFL's third-worst running game. He has a good group of receivers (Michael Haynes, Quinn Early, Torrance Small, and tight end Irv Smith) and the chance to erase the negatives heaped on him in the years when the Rams sank listlessly to the bottom of the league.

"He has shown flashes of greatness, but the jury is still out," said Walsh. "He could very well finish his career in New Orleans with a real positive note and change some of those general appraisals."

Time. Everything takes time. No quarterbacks claim victory in the ultimate war against it. They're judged by how many battles they win along the way. □



Al Messerschmidt

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Group 1 QB	Team	Points
1 D. Bledsoe	NE	336.1
2 B. Favre	GB	387.5
3 J. George	Atl	294.2
4 D. Marino	Mia	369.2
5 S. Young	SF	444.1

Group 2 QB	Team	Points
6 J. Elway	Den	286.9
7 J. Everett	NO	293.3
8 J. Hostetler	Lar	281.7
9 J. Kelly	Buf	270.2
10 W. Moon	Min	289.8

Group 3 QB	Team	Points
11 T. Aikman	Dal	197.2
12 C. Erickson	TB	230.6
13 B. Esiason	NYJ	223.2
14 S. Humphries	SD	251.9
15 N. O'Donnell	Pit	189.8

Group 4 Rec	Team	Points
16 C. Carter	Min	293.6
17 T. Mathis	Atl	315.2
18 H. Moore	Det	275.3
19 A. Reed	Buf	278.3
20 J. Rice	SF	363.2

Group 5 Rec	Team	Points
21 T. Brown	Lar	273.9
22 B. Coates	NE	255.4
23 H. Ellard	Wash	252.2
24 I. Fryar	Mia	246.0
25 C. Pickens	Cin	249.7

Group 6 Rec	Team	Points
26 F. Barnett	Phi	220.6
27 B. Blades	Sea	218.8
28 M. Irvin	Dal	239.1
29 J. Reed	Min	226.5
30 A. Rison	Cle	239.8

Group 7 Rec	Team	Points
31 Q. Early	NO	196.4
32 M. Haynes	NO	209.8
33 A. Miller	Den	203.0
34 R. Moore	NYJ	217.0
35 S. Sharpe	Den	216.0

Group 8 Rec	Team	Points
36 A. Harper	TB	163.1
37 H. Jeffries	Hou	187.1
38 M. Pritchard	Den	52.1
39 J. Taylor	SF	123.9
40 M. Timpson	Chi	186.5

Group 9 RB	Team	Points
41 M. Falk	Ind	304.4
42 B. Sanders	Det	308.6
43 E. Smith	Dal	359.5
44 C. Warren	Sea	295.8
45 R. Watters	Phi	291.6

Group 10 RB	Team	Points
46 E. Bennett	GB	248.9
47 L. Hoard	Cle	235.5
48 N. Means	SD	269.5
49 T. Thomas	Buf	239.2
50 H. Williams	Lar	221.1

Group 11 RB	Team	Points
51 M. Allen	KC	191.8
52 J. Bettis	LA	190.8
53 J. Johnson	NYJ	195.4
54 B. Parmelee	Mia	183.8
55 H. Walker	Phi	201.8

Group 12 RB	Team	Points
56 T. Allen	Min	182.9
57 R. Hampton	NYG	169.8
58 B. Morris	Pit	171.6
59 E. Rhett	TB	176.0
60 L. Tillman	Chi	182.4

Group 13 Kicker	Team	Points
61 N. Anderson	NO	116.0
62 M. Bahr	NE	117.0
63 J. Carney	SD	135.0
64 J. Elam	Den	119.0
65 F. Reveiz	Min	132.0

Group 14 Kicker	Team	Points
66 C. Boniol	Dal	114.0
67 D. Brien	SF	105.0
68 S. Christie	Buf	110.0
69 D. Pelfrey	Cin	108.0
70 M. Stover	Cle	110.0

Group 15 Defensive Teams	Team	Points
71 Buf	76 Ind	81 NE
72 Cin	77 Jac	82 NYJ
73 Cle	78 KC	83 Pit
74 Den	79 Lar	84 SD
75 Hou	80 Mia	85 Sea

Group 16 Defensive Teams	Team	Points
86 Atl	91 Det	96 NYG
87 AZ	92 GB	97 Phi
88 Car	93 LA	98 SF
89 Chi	94 Min	99 TB
90 Dal	95 NO	100 Wash

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Brightest New Stars

by **LARRY FELSER**

BUFFALO NEWS

Ten games into the 1994 season, Ray Buchanan was, well, bored. Buchanan is a man who craves action, but he wasn't getting enough of it playing free safety for Indianapolis. He made 16 tackles in a September game against Pittsburgh and 13 more in an early October game against Seattle, but as he admits, "I like having everyone's eyes on me," and all those tackles weren't getting him eyeballed enough. What got him the attention he wanted and in the process put him high on the list of "Tomorrow's Stars" was the Colts' desperation to solve their problem at left cornerback. After trying two other guys at the position without encouraging results, the Colts turned to Buchanan, who wanted to be there in the first place.

"It's about time," was Buchanan's reaction.

He intercepted at least one pass in each of the next four games, six in the final seven games of the season. In his first start at corner, he intercepted Cincinnati's Jeff Blake in the Indy end zone with 54 seconds remaining to preserve a 17-13 Indianapolis victory. Three of Buchanan's interceptions were returned for touchdowns. Against New England, he stepped in front of Michael Timpson, stole Drew Bledsoe's pass, and raced 90 yards for a score. Against Seattle, he intercepted Rick Mirer and returned it 37 yards for a touchdown. Tacked on to his dozen tackles, a sack, and a recovered fumble, it was enough to make him the AFC Defensive Player of the Week. Blake is a tyro quarterback while Bledsoe and Mirer are developing stars, but Buchanan treated the veterans just as rudely. After he was shifted to left corner in the fourth quarter of a game against Miami, he intercepted



Tomaso DeRosa



Stephen Dunn/Allsport

Dan Marino and returned it 28 yards for a touchdown.

Those are the reasons they now refer to him as "Big-Play Ray." Near the end of the season the 5-9, 193-pound Buchanan asked, "When are they going to notice that I'm out there on the field?" Since Indy is loaded with young defensive stars like Steve Emtman, Trev Alberts, and Quentin Coryatt, it's understandable how he might have been overlooked. That should be coming to an end, considering his future is on the corner. "Playing corner, I know I can make a lot of big plays and I can be around the ball more," he said. "At cornerback, you see the opposing team's best receiver. I like that challenge."

MARIO BATES

While Buchanan's explosive skills were unleashed by a dramatic position switch, Mario Bates's accomplishments were delayed by a dramatic and rude interruption

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

of his rookie season. When the New Orleans Saints took Bates in the second round of the 1994 draft, they envisioned him as a rare commodity: a power runner with sufficient speed to turn the corner. Early last September, long before the Saints had a chance to find out about Bates, his season was abruptly brought to a halt; not by a crashing tackle or a twisted knee, but by a roundhouse punch landed by the man who lines up next to him in the New Orleans backfield, fullback Lorenzo Neal.

The post-midnight punch, which occurred for reasons never made clear, happened in Rickey Jackson's Club 57 in suburban Kenner, LA, about nine hours after the hapless Washington Redskins hung a 38-24 loss on the Saints. Not only was it embarrassing for the Saints, it sapped vital strength from their offense. Bates was out of the lineup for two months.

What put Bates in the "Stars of Tomorrow" category was the manner in which he performed after he came back from the jaw injury. In his first career starting assignment, he ran for 141 yards and two touchdowns as the Saints defeated archrival Atlanta, 33-32. That was 59 yards more than any New Orleans back ever gained in a pioneer start.

ANDRE COLEMAN

It was lost in the blizzard of San Francisco offense and embarrassing defeat suffered by San Diego in the Super Bowl, but the Chargers quietly unveiled a future star of their own in Andre Coleman, their little rookie kick returner. The Super outcome had long been decided when Doug Brien of the 49ers drove his third-quarter kickoff to the San Diego 2-yard line. Coleman took off like a rocket to give the Charger backers a chance for a small consolation cheer for his 98-yard return.

It was the third time the rookie returned an NFL kickoff for a score, confirming that general manager Bobby Beathard made the right move when he drafted Coleman in the third round the previous April. The NFL Competition Committee had just changed the rule in the NFL, moving the point of kickoff back to the 30-yard line. The rule change suggested that there would be more returns in 1994, but most NFL football people, conservative by nature, were content to let things play out. Beathard, far from conservative, checked the films of Coleman's senior year at Kansas State, when he averaged 28.9 yards on 15 returns. Then Beathard moved quickly to draft him.

The 5-9, 165-pound Coleman, who also caught 42 passes for an 18.1-yard average as a receiver in 1993, has further special-

teams' possibilities for San Diego. He averaged 13.4 yards on 27 punts returns as a K-State senior. With Mel Gray, now a Houston Oiler, unable to go on forever, Coleman could be the man who succeeds him as the league's premier return man.

49ERS STRIKE GOLD

Free agency has made the quick development of young stars almost a necessity. With some of the best players on the better teams being cherry-picked by the opposition with help from the salary-cap constraints, players in the early years of their original contracts need to replace the lost contributors almost immediately.

The conventional view of the San Francisco 49ers is that they are an aging team of stars such as Jerry Rice, Steve Young, Brent Jones, Ken Norton, John Taylor, et al. But the truth is that no team is developing young stars at a more accelerated rate. There were three rookies who started for the Niners last season: defensive tackle Bryant Young, fullback William Floyd, and outside linebacker Lee Woodall.

The 49ers traded up in order to draft Young, an All-America who was a big producer at Notre Dame, with the ninth pick of the first round. They paired him with another young star, second-year tackle Dana Stubblefield, in order to create a formidable and consistent inside pass rush. Their instant cohesiveness turned out to be vital after free-agent end Richard Dent was injured in the second game of the season, weakening

into Young's territory. Young instinctively looped around him and took Stubblefield's normal position, keeping the alignment intact. "It wasn't planned," said Young. "It just happened naturally."

With Stubblefield, it was a case of instant appreciation when Young showed up. "Not everyone steps into a high-caliber program like this, gets a position handed to him, takes that position, and runs away with it by making plays he's not supposed to, putting pressure on the quarterback and getting sacks," said Stubblefield.

At West Chester University, where the competition is Kutztown, Millersville, and other small Pennsylvania colleges, Lee Woodall's major claim to athletic fame was that at an even 6-0, he had jumped center on a two-time state championship high school basketball team that featured Billy Owens, now a Golden State Warrior. Primarily, he was a strong safety at West Chester.

What accelerated Woodall into the starting lineup was a combination of his speed and athletic ability. In his first pro road game, the Niners confirmed they had made a sound decision when he recorded seven solo tackles against Kansas City. By mid-December, they were positive after they watched him make four solo tackles, a sack, and a forced fumble against Denver.

ERRICT RHETT

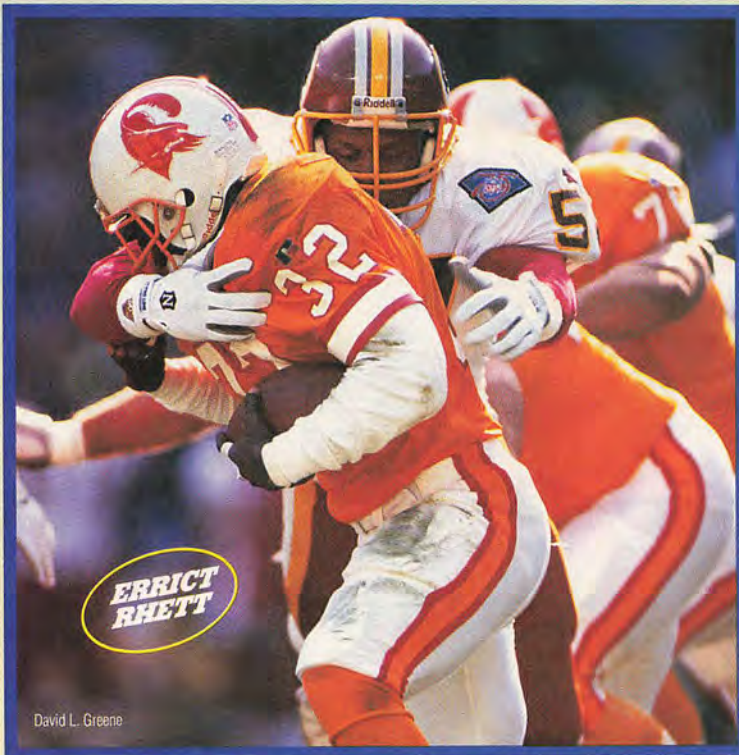
For a player who established himself as an all-pro trash talker shortly after he arrived,

Errict Rhett never muttered a word in complaint when journeyman Vince Workman started ahead of him in the Tampa Bay backfield for nine games. But once he got into the lineup, Rhett spoke volumes both with his mouth and his legs. In the final five games, he averaged 117.8 yard and finished with 1,011 yards for the season, sixth in the NFC. The only ball carrier in the NFL who outgained him in those five games was Barry Sanders.

The Bucs, the most consistently bad team in the league, played it conservatively with Rhett because he had trouble reading blocks, getting the knack of blocking, and learning the offense. Being underestimated by the NFL was getting old for Rhett, the University of Florida's all-time ground gainer. The pro scouts were dissatisfied with his speed, so he lasted until the second round.

"I expected to play sooner than I did," admitted Rhett. "I knew I could get the job done. Imagine what my numbers might have been if I had been playing."

Marshall Faulk of Indianapolis became an instant star as a rookie, but even with a



the outside pass rush. Stubblefield led the team with 8.5 sacks while Young added 5.5 and led the linemen in tackles. When San Francisco defeated Dallas in their big November showdown, there was a moment when Stubblefield took a pass-rush lane

large head start, he outrushed Rhett by just 271 yards. Faulk's contract pays him \$13 million over four years. Rhett signed a four-year deal for \$2 million. "I know he's not \$11 million better than I am," said Rhett.

RON MOORE

Ron Moore gained 780 yards in Arizona last season, his second as a pro, but consider that he did it playing with the most flaccid offense in the NFC. But just before the draft, he was traded to the New York Jets, whose offense may be even more limited.

Moore is accustomed to challenges. He was the Cards' fourth-round draft choice out of little Pittsburg State in 1993, the year the team made Garrison Hearst of Georgia the first running back taken in the draft. Arizona made a shrewd investment. When Hearst couldn't shake a college knee injury, Moore did most of the playing the past two years. With Hearst healthy, the Cards dealt Moore for wide receiver Rob Moore. Long slung and powerful at 5-10 and 220 pounds, Moore is a durable workhorse who won the Harlon Hill Award in college as the best player in Division II.

DAVE BROWN

As the New York Giants' new quarterback, Dave Brown seems to have arrived at the status of Don Mattingly, Patrick Ewing, Mark Messier, and other Big Apple jock icons. Or has he? The December headline in *Newsday* might have struck the right chord: "This Guy Brown May Be the Man." The operative word is "may." The Giants, with Brown as No. 1 quarterback for the first time, had the oddest of seasons: three straight victories, seven straight losses, six straight victories—no playoffs.

Brown's problems are that he succeeds the popular Phil Simms as the starting quarterback and that the seven-game losing streak took the Giants out of contention for the playoffs which the finishing kick couldn't bring them back into. "I'm never gonna replace him [Simms]. I know that," said Brown. "That's not what I set out to do. Obviously a lot of the fans would love to have Phil in there, but they are learning to live with me. Obviously, after you win, they like you a lot more than after you lose."

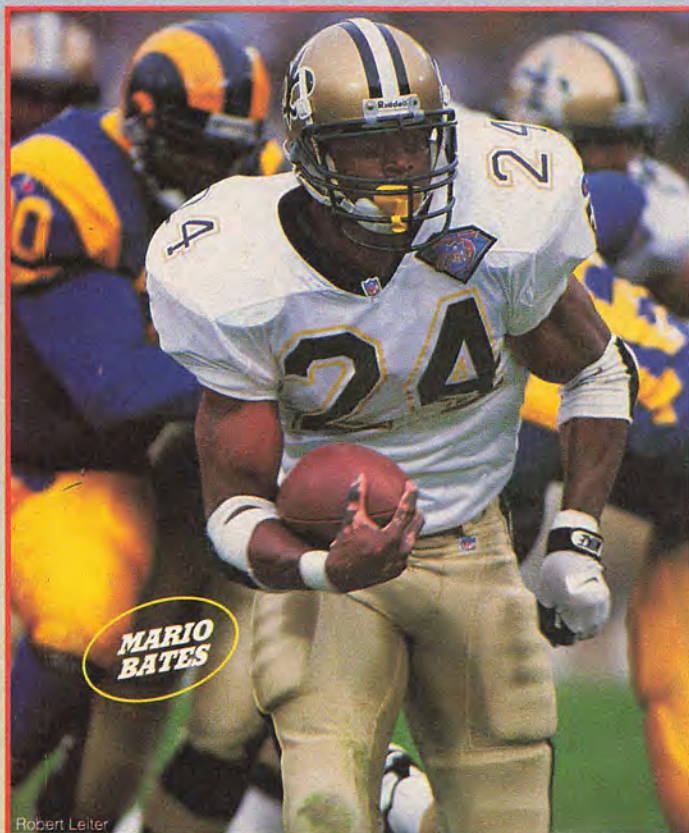
When the Giants were streaking at the end, fighting for the playoffs, Brown showed that he can handle a two-minute offense. On consecutive Sundays he steered his team to victories in the last minute over Cleveland and Cincinnati. The man has confidence in himself. "Even during the losing streak, I felt there were only one or two bad plays that I made."

CHRIS SLADE

It's only natural that when Bill Parcells came back into coaching, he would search for a pass rusher who might do some of the things in New England that Lawrence Taylor did for

him in New York. Parcells thought he might have his L.T. impersonator in the 1994 draft when he selected Willie McGinest of USC.

As it turned out, McGinest wasn't ready, but Parcells ended up with L.T. Lite: Chris Slade, who recorded 9.5 sacks last year, giving him 18.5 in his two pro seasons. But his prowess goes beyond statistics. He has Taylor's penchant for producing in the



clutch. Consider the last six games when New England made its successful drive for its first playoff berth since 1986. It began when Slade sacked Stan Humphries 3.5 times in a 23-17 victory over the AFC champion San Diego Chargers. It was the most sacks for a Patriot in a game since Andre Tippett did it in '86. The next week Slade led the Pats to a 12-10 victory over Indianapolis with eight tackles. He led again with eight tackles as the Pats beat the Jets. The next week he was named New England's Player of the Week for the second time in four games, making 10 tackles, tops by a Pat all season, in a second victory over Indy. He finished off with strong games against Buffalo and Chicago as the Pats clinched the playoffs.

It was no coincidence that New England's chances in the playoffs against Cleveland dimmed when Slade tore a muscle in his groin and had to take himself out of the game. The encouraging part for Parcells is that McGinest could join Slade in a twin assault on quarterbacks this season.

LAKE DAWSON

Lou Holtz has been touting him since Lake Dawson was a freshman at Notre Dame, where he was a lightly recruited ruby-in-the-rough wide receiver out of Federal Way, Washington. "From the very first practice," said Holtz, "he did all the little things, things that he wasn't told to do, things he just did on his own. There was maturity far beyond his years."

Notre Dame never had the passing offense to showcase Dawson as he deserved and his speed was not what set the NFL scouting computers whirling, which is why he lasted until the third round of the 1994 draft. He made an immediate impression on the Kansas City Chiefs, however. In his first preseason game, he scored on a 52-yard reverse; in his second, he caught a 40-yard touchdown pass; in his third, he made a miracle catch. "Every time he gets the ball," observed Lynn Stiles, the Chiefs' personnel director, "he makes something happen." There was instant bonding with Joe Montana. Dawson caught 37 passes last season, mostly as the team's third receiver. Ten of those catches gained 20 yards or more. This season, with starter J.J. Birden gone to Atlanta, Dawson's role will increase significantly.

ANDREW JORDAN

Andrew Jordan came into the NFL even more anonymously than Dawson. The fans in Minnesota had become accustomed to a Jordan at tight end, but it was always Steve Jordan, who caught more passes than any Viking in history.

But Steve Jordan was

continued



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released before the 1994 season and the position became a hybrid, with Andrew, a rookie, assigned the role of blocking tight end.

Yet Dennis Green, the Minnesota coach, couldn't forget a training-camp vignette that had all the coaches and players talking. Jordan caught a pass in an intrasquad scrimmage and 6-3, 240-pound linebacker Ashley Sheppard tried to tackle him. The collision was so intense that Sheppard suffered a neck injury that kept him sidelined for a week. Jordan endured a broken rib, but he played despite it for another week before he decided it was serious.

"Some of the catches he made with that injury, laying out, going up for passes knowing he was going to take a shot on that broken rib and not backing off at all—that shows you something," said Brian Billick, the offensive coordinator.

It showed the Vikings they had something special in the sixth-round draft choice from Western Carolina. Once the Vikes became convinced he could handle all phases of his position, he caught 35 passes as a rookie. He should be more important in the offense this season.

AARON GLENN

Cornerbacks who can cover are invaluable in the NFL these days and there are three of them about to explode on the scene: Aaron Glenn of the New York Jets, Antonio Langham of Cleveland, and Doug Evans of Green Bay.

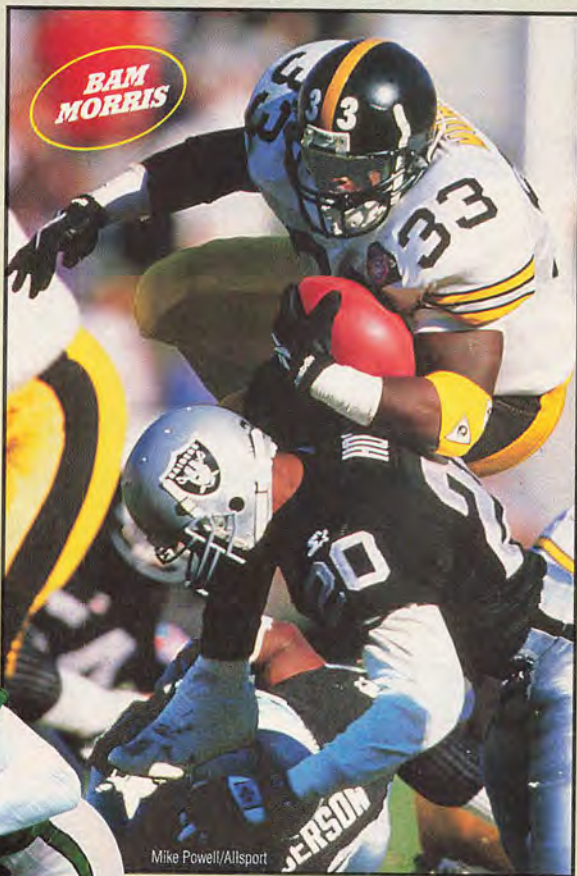
When a rookie muffs or misplays four punts in the first few preseason games, as Glenn did last summer, it says something about his confidence that he still forced is

the team went into its traditional late-season swoon. If the Jets are committed, as 80-year owner Leon Hess proclaimed, to a turnaround that would eventually bring them their first division championship since the days of Joe Namath, Glenn is likely to have a big part.

ANTONIO LANGHAM

Langham had the credentials coming into his rookie season with Cleveland. He won the Jim Thorpe Award as college football's best defensive back when he was a senior at Alabama. He made big plays. No one beat him when it got down to speed. He didn't have knockout computer numbers when it came to running for the clock, but as the scouts say, "He played faster than his time." Still, when he was beaten by Darnay Scott of Cincinnati for a 24-yard touchdown late in last year's opening game, slicing the Browns' lead, even his teammates wondered.

"Are you a player or not," safety Eric Turner asked, pointedly. "A player comes back and makes plays." Safety Stevon



ROB FREDRICKSON

For too many years, the Los Angeles Raiders have been creaking toward antiquity with too many older players whose prime owner Al Davis vainly attempted to recapture. But now Davis seems less committed to past reputations and more inclined to develop his talent the old-fashioned way. Last season he drafted an old-fashioned linebacker, Rob Fredrickson of Michigan State. After a failed experiment as an inside linebacker, Fredrickson was stationed outside, where his combination of ferocity and intelligence allowed him to flourish as a starter.

BAM MORRIS

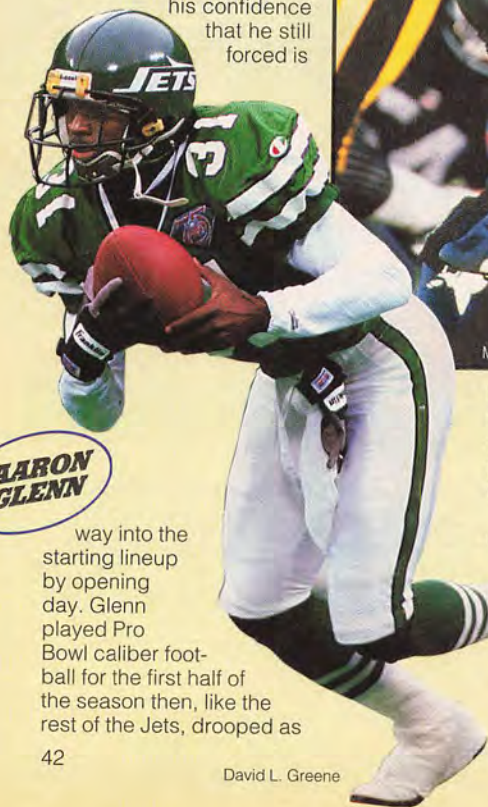
The Pittsburgh Steelers live by the running game and they seem to have an odd formula about acquiring the right guy to carry the ball. The idea is to focus on a running back who comes out of the Southwest a year early, is lightly scouted, and is passed up in the premium rounds of the draft. It happened first with Barry Foster of Arkansas and then with Bam Morris of Texas Tech. Foster became one of the most productive ground gainers in the NFL, but now that he's grown expensive and injury prone, the job goes to Morris.

"We don't do a lot of studying on juniors," admitted Buffalo GM John Butler. "We're trying to get the seniors right. You realize a player is very, very talented, but if you don't have a lot of time invested, you're not comfortable with it. It happens. It happened with Barry Foster."

Thirteen running backs were drafted before Morris in 1994, despite his leading the nation with a 12.2-points-per-game scoring average, 10 100-yard games, and the fact that he broke Earl Campbell's conference ground-gaining record. Morris's 836 yards put him in the AFC's top 10 rushers as a rookie, and only two in that group exceeded his 4.2-yard-per-carry average. He's headed for even bigger things. □

Moore was half brotherly, half stern: "Do you think this is the only time this is going to happen? This is the NFL. Everybody is a good player here. You've got to suck it up and make a play."

With less than two minutes to play, Cincinnati drove to the Browns' 8, from where quarterback David Klingler again attempted to connect with Scott. "I read pass and got a good break on the ball," said Langham, later. He intercepted the pass and the Bengals' last best chance evaporated. So did doubt about Langham's pro future.



AARON GLENN

way into the starting lineup by opening day. Glenn played Pro Bowl caliber football for the first half of the season then, like the rest of the Jets, drooped as

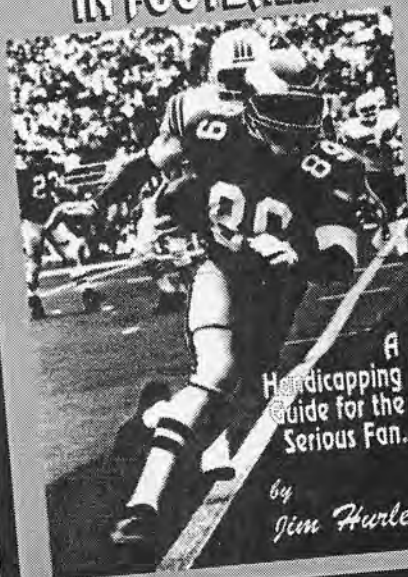
David L. Greene

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Greatest Playoff Rivalries

by **RUSSELL S. BAXTER** *ESPN*

● The National Football League has enjoyed 75 years of talented players, innovative coaches, and great teams. But what has made the NFL what it is today are the quests for supremacy. In contrast to baseball, hockey, and basketball and their numerous five- and seven-game series, pro football's postseason is a single elimination tournament: winner take all.

On occasion, a pair of clubs have managed to remain heads and tails above all the others, and find themselves battling for advancement or titles over a period of time. These rivalries have arisen not because of geography or divisional residence, but based on excellence of performance.

A look at the best of the best, with the most on the line.

the Steelers an improbable 13-7 victory. Oakland claimed the ball hit Fuqua, not Tatum, and the rules at the time would have made the catch illegal. But the touchdown stood, a scoring play that continues to be debated to this day.

The Raiders would make amends the following year in the playoffs, whacking Bradshaw and company, 33-14. But in 1974, John Madden's team had already ousted the two-time defending Super Bowl champion Dolphins, 28-26, in a classic playoff affair, and welcomed the Steelers to Oakland, confident of a victory and a trip to the Super Bowl. The Raiders, however, wilted in the face of the Pittsburgh defense as Chuck Noll's young team surprised Oakland, 24-13. A year later at frigid Three Rivers, the Raiders cried foul again. A mysterious tear in the tarp that covered the turf had left parts of the field frozen, making life difficult for speedster Cliff Branch and the Raiders' other wide receivers. The Steelers survived a brutal 16-10 slugfest on the way to defending their Super Bowl title.

The most volatile game between the two teams was also the wildest. On the opening Sunday of the regular season in 1976, the

It was always a physical hell to play in those games," said Swann. "There was great intensity and great desire on the part of both teams to win, but the game seemed to go beyond that because of a perceived hatred. And it was hatred...It came from something that was brought into the game that we thought was unnecessary."

Three months later, there was talk the Raiders would lie down in a Monday night game versus Cincinnati in an attempt to keep Pittsburgh, which had rebounded strongly after a bad start, out of the playoffs. Oakland won convincingly, 35-20, and eventually eliminated the Steelers (playing without injured 1,000-yard rushers Harris and Rocky Bleier) themselves, 24-7, in the AFC title game on their way to beating the Vikings in Super Bowl XI.

But the on-field battles were nearly overshadowed by their repercussions. In a 1973 regular season game at Oakland, Steeler defensive tackle Tom Keating, an ex-Raider, told tall tales of how his former team greased their jerseys and wrote obscenities on the footballs. And the Swann incident in '76 and Steelers coach Chuck Noll's subsequent remarks of Atkinson and the Raiders being part of the NFL's "criminal element" resulted in legal action for slander, countersuits for battery, and fines for overzealous players and outspoken coaches. The feud died down considerably following their third AFC title clash. The teams have met just seven times dating back to 1977, including one divisional playoff game (the Raiders pounded Pittsburgh, 38-10, at the L. A. Coliseum in '83).

"If it wasn't the most intense rivalry," said Swann, "it's certainly in the top two. And I can't think of what the other could be."



Franco Harris

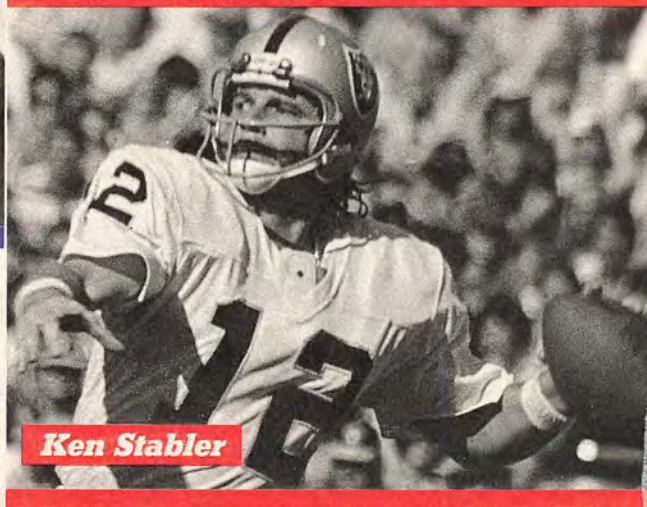
AP/Wide World Photos

Raiders vs. Steelers

For sheer ferocity, nothing can equal the bad blood between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Oakland Raiders, who squared off an unprecedented five straight years in the playoffs, including three consecutive AFC championship games (1974-76). And it all began with perhaps the most famous touchdown in NFL history.

With 22 seconds to play and the Raiders ahead, 7-6, in the 1972 divisional playoffs at Three Rivers Stadium, Pittsburgh quarterback Terry Bradshaw scrambled, then rifled a pass in the direction of running back Frenchy Fuqua. The ball caromed off Raiders safety Jack Tatum and into the hands of rookie running back Franco Harris, whose "Immaculate Reception" gave

Steelers led the host Raiders, 28-14, with less than seven minutes remaining. But Ken Stabler passed to tight end Dave Casper for one score, ran for another, and rookie Fred Steinfort's 21-yard field goal with 18 seconds remaining culminated a frantic Oakland rally in a 31-28 victory. Earlier in the contest, Raiders safety George Atkinson delivered a forearm shot to the back of the helmet of Pittsburgh wide receiver Lynn Swann while Franco Harris was running downfield with the ball. Swann suffered a concussion, his second in two years vs. the Raiders, and still has less than fond memories when it comes to the Silver and Black.



Ken Stabler

Darryl Norenberg

Browns vs. Lions

Trivia fans will note that Cleveland and Detroit were the first teams to meet in the NFL championship game three consecutive years. In 1952 at Municipal Stadium, quarterback Bobby Layne and the Lions scored a 17-7 triumph. A year later at Detroit's

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Briggs Stadium, the Lions won again, 17-16. But in '54, the third time turned out to be the charm for the Browns, who spotted the defending champs a quick 3-0 lead, then blasted Buddy Parker's club, 56-10.

The significance of the Browns/Lions title series is often overlooked. "There was so much more to it," observed Joe Horrigan, curator/director of research for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. "At that time, Cleveland was still battling for respect from the All-American Football Conference years. Their role was more like 'We're going to be champs of this league and show that this other league could have done it.' From a historical perspective, it was very important."

Hall of Fame quarterback Otto Graham, who guided the Browns to the title game for 10 consecutive years, the first four (1946-49) in the aforementioned AAFC, was behind center for the three battles against Detroit, with the '53 contest one he would like to forget. "That was probably the worst game I ever played," he said. "This is not an alibi, but my hands were all chapped. I don't know what happened, but I could not grip the ball and couldn't throw accurately

rest of the Browns, Graham dismisses the notion. "I don't think that was any factor at all," he said. "Having lost to these guys so many times, we wanted to prove we were a good football team. We worked hard and everything went our way."

In 1957, with Graham retired and Layne sidelined with an injury, the Browns and Lions again met for the league title, with Detroit on top of a 59-14 score.

Cowboys vs. 49ers

There are three phases to this ongoing drama, which last season saw the teams meet for the NFC championship for the third consecutive year and sixth time overall. En route to an unprecedented fifth Super Bowl title, San Francisco ended Dallas's plans for a "three-peat."

Dating back to the merger, the Cowboys prevailed in the 1970 and '71 NFC championship games. The 49ers appeared to be the better team in 1972, dusting Dallas on Thanksgiving in Irving (31-10). When they met again four weeks later at Candlestick Park in the playoffs, quarterback John Brodie and the Niners owned a 28-13 lead

miracle. I don't think Roger believed it."

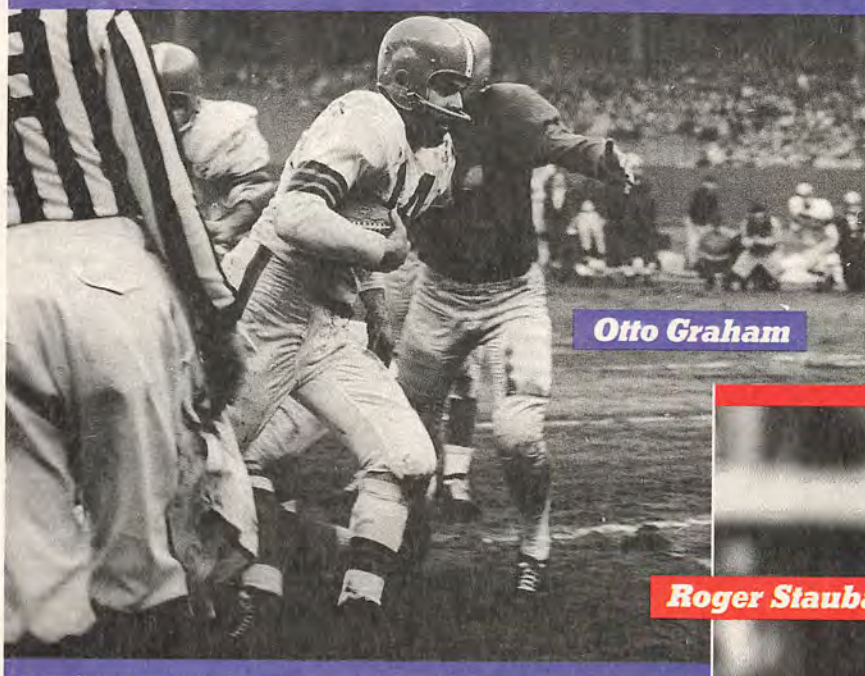
The 49ers' revenge would come nearly a decade later on the same field. While the Cowboys remained a perennial playoff team in the 1970s, the Niners had fallen upon hard times. They were in the third year of a rebuilding program under head coach Bill Walsh and had made progress. In 1980, San Francisco was embarrassed at Texas Stadium, 59-14, as Dallas set a franchise record for points in a game. But nearly one year later to the day in Candlestick, the 49ers handed the Cowboys a resounding 45-14 defeat.

As expected, the Niners and Cowboys met a few months later in that same season in the conference championship game. A see-saw contest had come down to Dallas clinging to a 27-21 lead with 4:54 to play and 49ers quarterback Joe Montana and his team pinned at their own 11-yard line. In the next few moments, fans would realize the greatness of a player and the smarts of his coach.

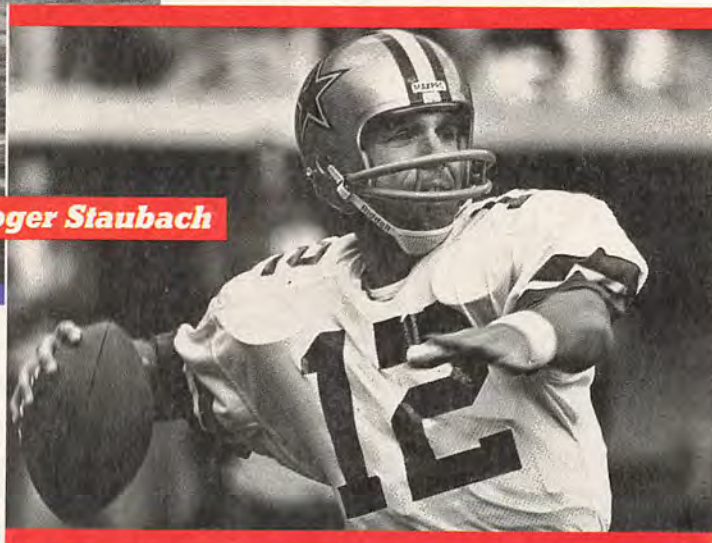
"San Francisco made a great drive," said Landry. "We played our nickel backs, and they started running on us. We didn't think they would continue, but they worked their way down to inside our 10-yard line."

"It was a great strategy because, for some reason, we were not prepared for it," said Dallas cornerback Everson Walls. "When you go into a game, you do what you do best. And [our third-down defense] had been working the entire game. But they picked the right spot. Both of our safeties were back deep...And just when they had us back on our heels, they came back with that quick passing game."

With less than a minute remaining, Montana took the snap from the 6-yard line and rolled to his right, looking toward the end zone. As he neared the sideline he lofted a



Otto Graham



Roger Staubach

at all. I tried to put some 'stickum' on them, but it just made it worse. I lost that game more than anybody else. I think that if I could have thrown the ball halfway decently, we could have won the game."

There was nothing wrong with Graham's hands, or feet, a year later in the championship game when he threw three touchdown passes and ran for three scores in the lopsided victory. "We beat the hell out of them," remembered Graham. "We weren't that much better than they were. But everything we did that day turned to gold, and everything they did turned rotten. It was just one of those days."

Ironically, Graham had told head coach Paul Brown that the game would be his last (although he left an opening for himself and subsequently returned). But while some still believe that that was impetus enough for the

early in the fourth quarter and appeared poised to exorcise the Dallas demons. But Roger Staubach, who had entered the game in the second half after missing most of the season with a shoulder injury, led the Cowboys to 17 unanswered points, throwing a pair of touchdown passes to Billy Parks and Ron Sellers in the final 90 seconds to cap a stunning 30-28 triumph.

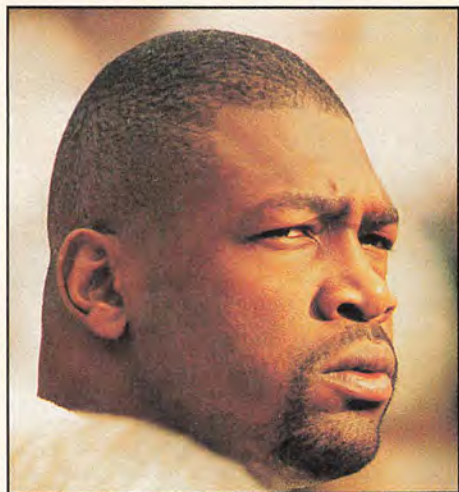
"They had us on the ropes," recalled Dallas coach Tom Landry. "We were playing terribly and the 49ers were kind of hollering across the field. 'Well, we finally got you.' Craig Morton was our quarterback, but it wasn't his fault we weren't doing anything. Everything turned around. It was a

pass in the direction of wide receiver Dwight Clark, who outleaped Walls for the deciding touchdown in a 28-27 victory.

"That was really a disappointment," said Landry. "I think if we had won that game, we might have gone on to win a couple of more Super Bowls. That game was a big turnaround for us."

"I would say that we took them for granted the first game," said Walls, "and later,

George Gajkovich



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we were going to show them the real Cowboys. But they were able to match us in talent, as well as in desire...It was the greatest game I ever played in."

While San Francisco has suffered through just one losing season since then, the Cowboys began to slide, and in the late 1980s they were among the worst teams in the NFL. But the '90s have seen Dallas revitalized by some astute wheeling, dealing, and drafting, and a new chapter added to this series. The Cowboys and 49ers are currently the league's two premier teams, with nary a challenge from anyone else. And prior to last season, history was again repeating itself as Dallas had thwarted San Francisco twice in its attempts to reach the Super Bowl, upsetting them in the '92 NFC title game at Candlestick (30-20), then overwhelming them again (38-21) a year later at Irving. But San Francisco used the league's latest innovation, free agency, to climb back on top.

"The Niners' offseason maneuvering was aimed directly at the Cowboys," said Norm Hitzges, a radio talk-show host for KLIF in Dallas. "They wanted to take [Ken] Norton away. They wanted to find a corner [Deion Sanders] that could cover

in league annals. The rivalry was also characterized by the dislike between the clubs.

"That was more an outgrowth of the personalities of [Bears owner George] Halas and [Redskins owner George Preston] Marshall," said Horrigan. "They were both powerful men within the league, and at the same time—more so in Marshall's case—egocentric. The personality clash would carry over to their teams."

In the 1937 championship game, Redskins rookie quarterback Sammy Baugh passed for 335 yards and three touchdowns in a 28-21 victory, an amazing performance in the run-oriented NFL. The Bears epitomized power football, having surrendered just 100 points in 11 games.

While Baugh and the 'Skins gave the league a glimpse of the impact of the passing attack, it was three years later that Halas incorporated another kind of weapon that is today also commonplace: the bulletin board. After a controversial 7-3 victory over the Bears in Washington in mid-November, a game Chicago felt it should have won if not for an official's non-call for pass interference on the final play, Marshall and the 'Skins proclaimed the Bears "crybabies" and "quitters." Halas would not let

THE BEST OF THE REST

Bears vs. Giants

The eight postseason battles between the New York Giants and the Chicago Bears have had some memorable moments, the most famous being the 1934 title clash, or "Sneakers Game," at the Polo Grounds, when the Giants switched from cleats to basketball shoes at half-time to combat the frozen field. The strategy worked, for the Giants rallied for a 30-13 victory.

More importantly, the Bears and the Giants met in the first two official NFL championships, with Chicago winning the first (23-21) in 1933 and the Giants taking the rematch (30-13) the year after.

Rams vs. Vikings

Los Angeles's losses in the 1974 and '76 NFC championship games, both at frigid Metropolitan Stadium in Minnesota, earned the team a tag for not being able to play in cold weather. That rap was expanded to include adverse conditions when the Purple Gang, without Fran Tarkenton, outlasted the Rams, 14-7, in a quagmire at the L.A. Coliseum in the '77 divisional playoffs. "I still have one of my favorite photos of myself and Larry Brooks sitting on the bench," said former Rams defensive end Jack Youngblood. "You can't tell which one of us is white and which one is black."

"It was the worst, but it was football," said Vikings linebacker Matt Blair. "It's a real game when you get a little dirty."

49ers vs. Giants

From 1981-90, San Francisco and New York met a dozen times, with the winner of their five playoff games going on to win the Super Bowl four times. "It epitomized east coast versus west coast football," said Walls, who joined the Giants after being cut by Dallas.

Phil Simms recalled a 17-3 victory in the 1985 wild card game at the Meadowlands. "It was a big turning point because we were able to turn the tables on them," said the former Giants' quarterback. "And it all came together in '86 [divisional playoffs] when we were able to beat them, 49-3." More significantly, Simms remembered tight end Mark Bavaro, who always proved to be an arm load for San Francisco's defense. "I can remember hitting him three or four times in the seams for big touchdowns against those guys."

Broncos vs. Browns

Three times in four years, John Elway kept the Browns out of the Super Bowl. Cleveland's best chance came at home in 1986, when it held a 20-13 lead with 5:34 to go and Denver pinned on its own 2-yard line. But Broncos linebacker Tom Jackson knew the Browns had backed themselves into a corner. "They were stuck between a decision to play prevent defense and allowing John to maneuver his way down the field. They decided to play prevent..." Elway then led his team 98 yards in 15 plays, hitting Mark Jackson for the tying touchdown with 37 seconds to play. Over-time was far less dramatic: Denver's Rich Karlis kicked the game-winning field goal. But it's "The Drive" that will be forever remembered. □



Sammy Baugh

AP/Wide World Photos

Michael Irvin or Alvin Harper. The Niners looked at Dallas and said, 'We're not quick enough to beat them.' In effect, they looked at the Cowboys and said whoever wins the NFC championship game, wins the Super Bowl."

And the saga continues.

Bears vs. Redskins

These franchises met three times in four years in the NFC divisional playoffs in the mid-1980s, but the focus here is on their title battles in the late 1930s and early '40s, one of which remains the most lopsided contest

his team forget those words, and three weeks later, at the same field, Chicago rolled up 382 yards rushing and returned three of eight interceptions for scores in a historic 73-0 drubbing.

It took two years for Washington to exact revenge, upsetting the two-time defending champions, 14-6, in the '42 title game and handing the Bears their lone defeat of that season. The following year, Chicago quarterback Sid Luckman threw five touchdown passes in a 41-21 triumph at Wrigley Field as the "Monsters of the Midway" reclaimed their crown.

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HALL OF FAME

by JIM O'BRIEN

The Pro Football Hall of Fame class of '95 does not have any marquee names. It lacks the sort of high-profile performers who have been elected in recent years. There's no one to rival Walter Payton or Tony Dorsett, Tom Landry or Bill Walsh, Terry Bradshaw or Roger Staubach, Jack Lambert or Franco Harris—players and coaches readily identifiable to the faintest of fans.

The 1995 class is a solid group, model citizens on and off the field, best known for the consistency of their play. It includes two of the finest pass-catchers of all time, wide receiver Steve Largent of the Seattle Seahawks and tight end Kellen Winslow of the San Diego Chargers, as well as defensive end Lee Roy Selmon, the best player in the history of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Two NFL stalwarts who have died and will be honored

posthumously are Henry Jordan, a defensive tackle for the Green Bay Packers of the Vince Lombardi era, and Jim Finks, a fine quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers of the 1950s who made more of a mark in the NFL as the front-office boss of the Minnesota Vikings, Chicago Bears, and New Orleans Saints.

The road to the Super Bowl begins in Canton, Ohio, where owners gathered 75 years ago to form the professional football league that evolved into what we know today as the NFL. This year's induction ceremonies take place at 11 A.M. on Saturday, July 29, and are open to the public, as always, without charge.

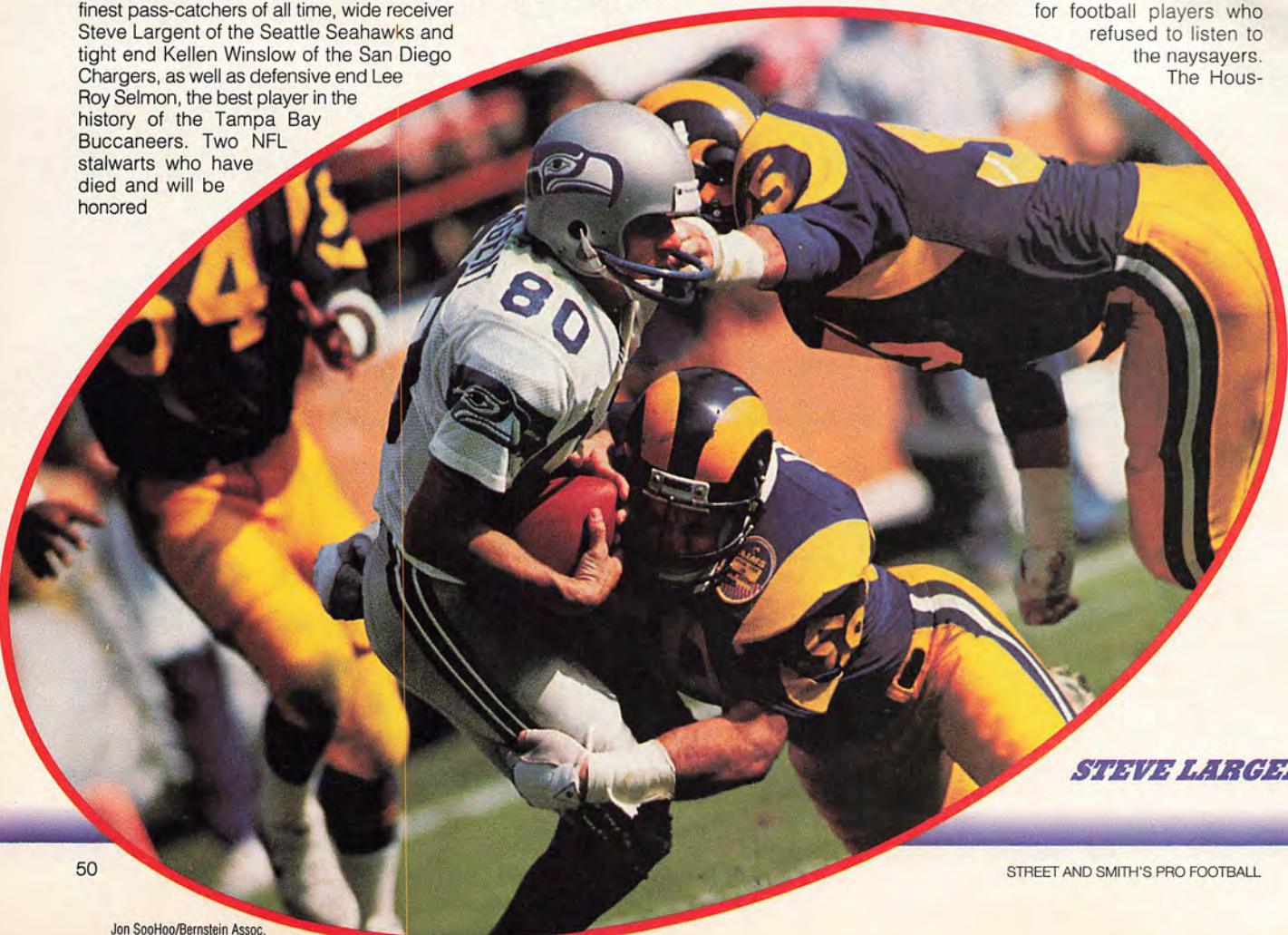
STEVE LARGENT

Last January was as good as it can get for the former Seattle star. Early in the month, Largent began serving his first term as a U.S. congressman from his native Oklahoma, and late in the month he learned he had been elected to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. He is one of only five players of the almost 15,000 who have played pro football to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Largent began his 14-year pro career in the first-ever game of the Seahawks and continued until the last game of the 1989 season. During that span, he quietly set six major NFL records:

- 819 career receptions
- 10 seasons with 50 or more receptions
- 177 straight games with at least one reception
- 13,089 yards on receptions
- 8 seasons with 1,000 receiving yards
- 100 career touchdown receptions

Largent was a record-setting receiver at the University of Tulsa, leading the nation with 14 touchdown catches in both 1974 and '75, but most pro scouts said he was too small and too slow for pro football. They should have a special wing in the newly revamped Hall of Fame for football players who refused to listen to the naysayers. The Hous-



STEVE LARGENT

ton Oilers selected him on the fourth round, the 117th overall pick in the 1976 NFL draft, but he was cut after the fourth preseason game. Jerry Rhome, a Seattle assistant who had been on the Tulsa coaching staff, recommended Largent to Seahawks head coach Jack Patera.

Largent was looked upon as an over-achiever, but Chuck Knox, who succeeded Patera in Seattle, had this to say of Largent: "He has unique talent to be a great receiver. He has the lateral quickness, great balance, body control, tremendous hand/eye coordination, and great hands."

Largent was extremely supportive of community charity activities during his playing days. As such, he was named the 1988 NFL's Man of the Year, an annual award given to the league's top "citizen athlete."

KELLEN WINSLOW

This was a tight end unlike any other. He took his cue from Mike Ditka and Jackie Smith as far as being a favorite target at a position that was once reserved more for a

big blocker, but he became even more of a deep threat than either Ditka or Smith, both Hall of Famers. Winslow was listed as a tight end, but often lined up as a wideout in Don Coryell's pass-happy offensive scheme. Quarterback Dan Fouts, who went into the Hall of Fame in 1993, loved to throw deep and short to him.

Winslow came out of the University of Missouri, where he now provides color commentary on radio broadcasts of the Tigers' games, to make his mark in a hurry for the Chargers. He looks back upon his first five years in the league as a period that was "like a fantasy."

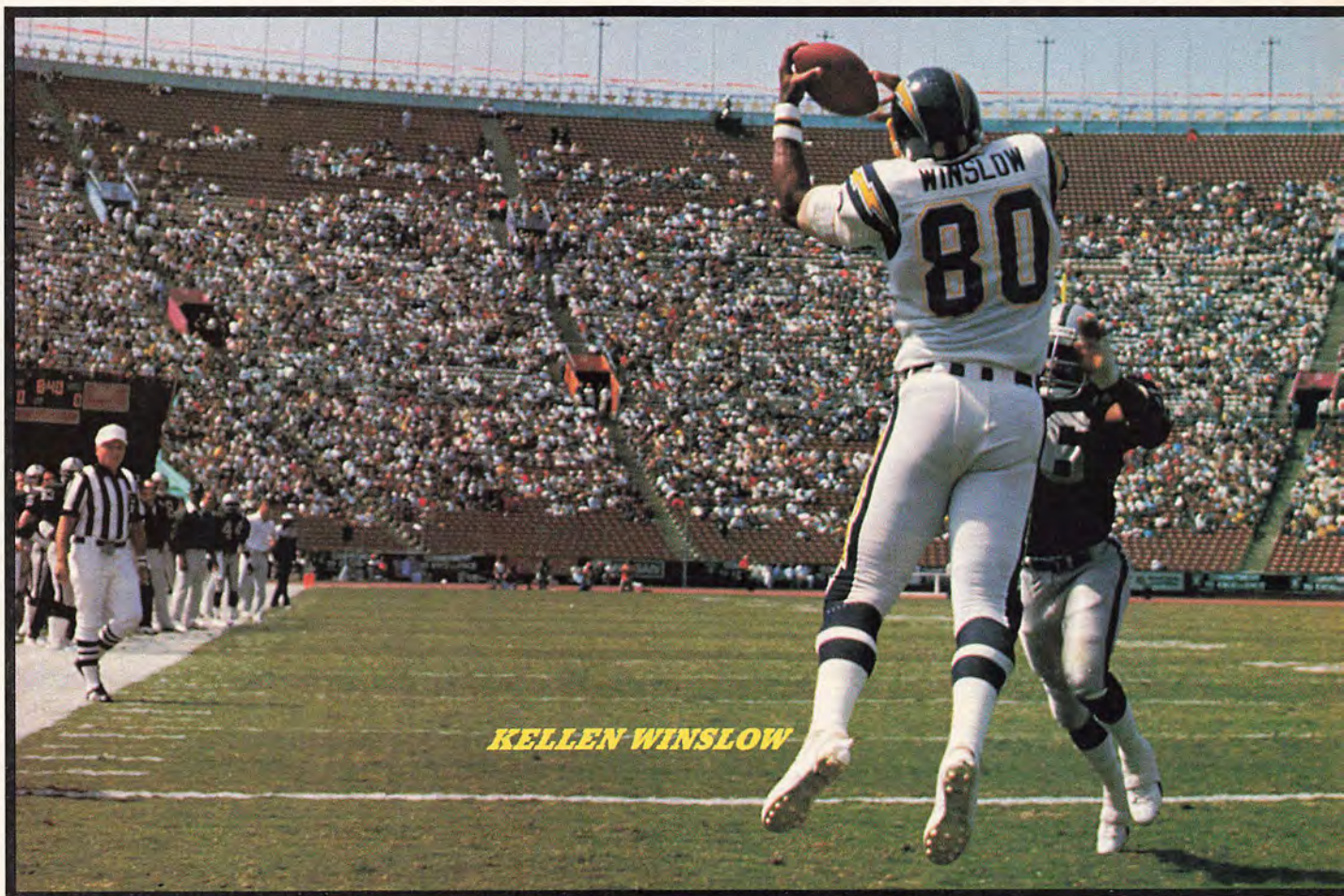
Between 1980 and '84, Winslow had 374 receptions, tops in the NFL for that span. He led the league with 88 catches in 1981 and matched that figure again in '83. He had some super days, such as catching five touchdown passes against Oakland on November 22, 1981, and the 15 receptions against Green Bay on October 7, 1984. He also starred in several respects in one of the most exciting games in NFL history: the

Chargers' 41-38 overtime victory over the Miami Dolphins in a nationally televised 1981 divisional playoff. When the game was tied 38-38, Winslow blocked a game-winning field-goal attempt and gave the Chargers a chance to win in overtime.

Winslow was a rags-to-riches story. One of seven children, he grew up in a tough neighborhood in East St. Louis, Illinois. "We were a very close family," Winslow said. "We got our inspiration from our parents. The one thing I always wanted to do was to give my parents a reason to be proud of me, outside of the fact that I was their son. I tried very hard to do that on and off the field." Homer and Odell Winslow will be among the proudest parents present for the ceremonies in Canton this summer.

LEE ROY SELMON

When John McKay was considering players to draft when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers became a member of the NFL in 1976, he knew he wanted to start with defense. And he knew it was a no-brainer to begin with



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Hall of Fame



LEE ROY SELMON

Lee Roy Selmon, an All-America defensive end at the University of Oklahoma. Selmon also won both the Lombardi Award and the Outland Trophy, annual honors that went to the outstanding college lineman. He came from a successful program, as the Sooners won 43 of 45 games during his four years. The Buccaneers had the first pick in the draft and surprised no one when they selected Lee Roy Selmon. On the second round, they took Lee Roy's older brother Dewey, also a defensive lineman, who became an NFL linebacker.

The Bucs lost all 14 games in 1976 and their first 12 in '77. "For the first time in my life, I was embarrassed to be recognized as a football player," admitted Lee Roy. "I didn't even want to go to the grocery store." The Bucs did get better, and it was the defensive unit, led by Lee Roy Selmon, that made the team more competitive. In one game, the younger Selmon sacked Fran Tarkenton of the Minnesota Vikings three

times in a 16-10 upset. "He's as good as any defensive lineman I have ever seen," Tarkenton told reporters after the game.

Selmon went on to play in six straight Pro Bowls. He made his mark off the field as well. Like Largent, he's been active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was named the NFL's Man of the Year (1980).

He traces his values to his upbringing under modest circumstances. Lucious Sr. and Jessie Selmon raised six sons and three daughters in a four-room house on a 40-acre farm in Eufala, a town of about 2,500 in eastern Oklahoma.

JIM FINKS

When NFL owners were looking for a successor to Pete Rozelle after he announced he was retiring as commissioner of the league, many of them looked no farther than Finks, then general manager and part owner of the New Orleans Saints. They ended up selecting Paul



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Tagliabue, but Finks finished a strong runner-up in the balloting. It points up the league-wide respect for Finks, who excelled as a front-office boss with the Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears before going to New Orleans.

Finks began his 30-year career in the NFL with the Pittsburgh Steelers. A T-formation quarterback at Tulsa, he was a 12th-round pick in the 1949 draft. The Steelers were the only team in the league that was still employing the single-wing offense, so Finks played defensive back his first three years. In 1952, the Steelers switched to the T-formation and Finks became the starting quarterback. In his first full season as a regular, he tied Otto Graham of Cleveland for the league lead with 20 touchdown passes and earned a Pro Bowl invitation. In seven years, Finks completed 661 passes for 8,622 yards and 55 touchdowns.

He gave up playing early to become an assistant coach to Terry Brennan at Notre

Dame in 1956. Then he went north to serve in several capacities with the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League for eight years before moving to Minnesota. Finks died of lung cancer on May 8, 1994. His son, Jim Finks Jr., will offer the acceptance speech at the Hall of Fame ceremonies.

HENRY JORDAN

One of pro football's greatest teams will be remembered when

Henry Jordan is enshrined alongside nine of his former Green Bay teammates and their coach as a member of the Hall of Fame. He suffered a heart attack and died at age 42 in 1977 and his son, Henry Jordan Jr., will represent him and his family at the induction ceremonies.

Jordan's NFL career spanned 13 seasons and he was a terrific defensive tackle. A fifth-round draft pick

of the Cleveland Browns out of the University of Virginia, Jordan was a backup lineman for two seasons on a talent-rich team under Paul Brown. He was traded to Green Bay for a fourth-round choice, a deal the Browns would later regret. Jordan got to Green Bay at the same time as a new coach, Vince Lombardi, came on the scene. It was the beginning of a beautiful relationship, and of a powerhouse team that would dominate pro football in the 1960s.

Jordan was small for his position, at 6-3 and 240 pounds, but he made the Pro Bowl four times. He was bald since he was a teenager back home in Emporia, Virginia, where his father was a railroad car inspector on the Chesapeake and Ohio. He was one of six children, and grew up fast, excelling as a high schooler in football, track, and wrestling.

Jordan joins four of his defensive teammates (Herb Adderly, Willie Davis, Ray Nitschke, and Willie Wood) in the Hall of Fame. Offensive teammates similarly honored were Bart Starr, Jim Taylor, Paul Hornung, Forrest Gregg, and Jim Ringo.

Renowned for his great sense of humor, the jovial Jordan helped offset the serious approach taken by Lombardi. He once said in jest, "Coach Lombardi is fair. He treats us all the same way—like dogs." □



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Jim Brown	12,312
Franco Harris	12,120
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O.J. Simpson	11,236
Ottis Anderson	11,273
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Earl Campbell	9,407
THOMAS, Thurman, Bills	8,724
SANDERS, Barry, Lions	8,672
Jim Taylor	8,597
Joe Perry	8,378
Roger Craig	8,189
Gerald Riggs	8,188
Larry Csonka	8,081
Freeman McNeil	8,074
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James Brooks	7,962
Mike Pruitt	7,378
Kelly, Leroy	7,274
SMITH, Emmitt, Cowboys	7,183
George Rogers	7,176
BYNER, Earnest, Browns	6,882
Curt Warner	6,844
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Drew Hill	634
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Mark Clayton	582
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Green Bay	9	7	0	.563	382	287
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Los Angeles	4	12	0	.250	286	365

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Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	10	6	0	.625	389	327
New England	10	6	0	.625	351	312
Indianapolis	8	8	0	.500	307	320
Buffalo	7	9	0	.438	340	356
New York	6	10	0	.375	264	320

Central Division

Pittsburgh	12	4	0	.750	316	234
Cleveland	11	5	0	.688	340	204
Cincinnati	3	13	0	.188	276	406
Houston	2	14	0	.125	226	352

Western Division

San Diego	11	5	0	.688	381	306
Kansas City	9	7	0	.563	319	298
Los Angeles	9	7	0	.563	303	327
Denver	7	9	0	.438	347	396
Seattle	6	10	0	.375	287	323

FIRST ROUND GAMES

Green Bay 16, Detroit 12
Chicago 35, Minnesota 18
Miami 27, Kansas City 17
Cleveland 20, New England 13

SECOND ROUND GAMES

San Francisco 44, Chicago 15
Dallas 35, Green Bay 9
Pittsburgh 29, Cleveland 9
San Diego 22, Miami 21

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

San Francisco 38, Dallas 28
San Diego 17, Pittsburgh 13

SUPER BOWL XXIX

San Francisco 49, San Diego 26

SUPER BOWL XXIX

At Miami, FL, January 29, 1995

San Diego	7	3	8	8	-26
San Francisco	14	14	14	7	-49

Scoring

San Francisco: Rice 44 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 1:24 1st
San Francisco: Watters 51 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 4:55 1st
San Diego: Means 1 run (Carney kick), 12:16 1st
San Francisco: Floyd 5 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 1:58 2nd
San Francisco: Watters 8 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 10:16 2nd
San Diego: FG Carney 31, 13:16 2nd
San Francisco: Watters 9 run (Brien kick), 5:25 3rd
San Francisco: Rice 15 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 11:42 3rd
San Diego: Coleman 98 kickoff return (Seay pass from Humphries), 11:59 3rd
San Francisco: Rice 7 pass from S. Young (Brien kick), 1:11 4th
San Diego: Martin 30 pass from Humphries (Pupunu pass from Humphries), 12:35 4th
Attendance: 74,107

Team Statistics

	San Diego	San Francisco
Points	26	49
Rushing yards	67	133
Passing yards	287	316
Return yards	243	76
Sacked-yards lost	2-18	3-15
Punts	4-195	5-199
Third downs	6-16	7-13
Fourth downs	0-4	0-0
Time of possession	28:29	31:31

Individual Statistics

Rushing: San Diego, Means 13-33, Harmon 2-10, Jefferson 1-10, Gilbert 1-8, Bienenmy 1-3, Humphries 1-3; San Francisco, S. Young 5-49, Watters 15-47, Floyd 9-32, Rice 1-10, Carter 2-minus 5
Passing: San Diego, Humphries 24-49-2-275, Gilbert 3-6-1-30; San Francisco, S. Young 24-36-0-325, Musgrave 1-1-0-6, Grbac 0-1-0-0
Receiving: San Diego, Harmon 8-68, Seay 7-75, Pupunu 4-48, Martin 3-59, Jefferson 2-15, Bienenmy 1-33, Means 1-4, D. Young 1-3; San Francisco, Rice 10-149, Taylor 4-43, Floyd 4-26, Watters 3-61, Jones 2-41, Popson 1-6, McCaffrey 1-5
Interceptions: San Francisco, Sanders 1-15, Cook 1-1, E. Davis 1-0
Sacks: San Diego, Johnson 2, Seau 1; San Francisco, Stubblefield 1, Brown 1/2, Harris 1/2
Missed Field Goals: San Francisco, Brien 47

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PLAYERS

Links Players to the Fans

JUNE 1995

INSIDE

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Fresh Look at Power Ratings
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Turf is Tuff Stuff
Tale of Two Cities
Road to Fame, Congress





IRON MEN of the NFL

By Bud Lea

You can do a lot of things in professional sports at age 40. You can drive an Indy race car, play the PGA tour, swing a designated bat.

But can you play in the National Football League? Even if you thought you could, would you?

Jackie Slater played in his 19th season with the Los Angeles Rams last year. He was 40 years old.

Teammate **Blair Bush**, who turned 38 in November, completed his 17th season in the NFL. In Atlanta, **Clay Matthews** and **Mike Kenn** also finished their 17th year in the most demanding of professional sports.

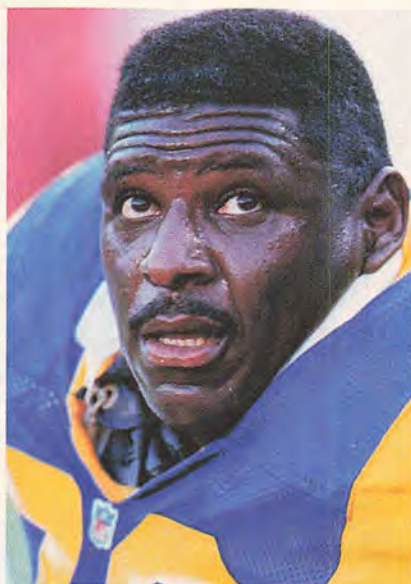
Now, by all rights they should be getting around with a cane. Or they should be able to tell by knee twinges when it's going to rain, or be walking around with a limp. They shouldn't be coming back for more punishment.

These are the Iron Men of the NFL. They are one of a kind because they have continued to play exceptionally well beyond the age when most players retire.

They are obviously physically gifted. They also know how to take good care of themselves.

The day can't be far off when a bus load of retired NFL players will storm the Rams' locker room and line up to drink from the water cooler that Jackie Slater uses. Who can blame them for thinking it is the Fountain of Youth?

Slater, who turned 41 in May, is one of the registered legends of football. When he started playing this game for money, Jimmy Carter was President, the first personal computers were introduced, the Gong Show made its television debut, and the defending NFL champions played the College All-Stars at Soldier Field.



Jackie Slater

The Rams' third-round draft choice out of Jackson State, Slater played in the last College All-Star game in the summer of '76. He remembers it well because he lined up against Joe Greene, the great defensive end with the Pittsburgh Steelers and a future Hall of Famer.

"I was blocking him at his legs, and he called my name a couple of times," Slater recalls. "He told me this was a pre-season game and we were supposed to have fun.

"I thought to myself, 'well, I've got him now.' I did it one more time, and I felt a tug on my shoulder pads. It was **Joe Greene**.

"I thought he was helping me up. He got me up just high enough so he could knee me right across my throat. I learned at that moment that these were men playing at this level, men who loved what they were doing and had a passion for the game.

"If I was going to compete in the NFL, I had to bring more than a whimsical attitude. I had to bring a commitment to it because these guys are pros."

The record books show that Slater has played in more games

(258) than any offensive lineman in NFL history. He is the only Rams' player to play 19 seasons with the same team.

How could anyone who is 40 years old bring himself out there, week after week, endure year-round training, and overcome injuries to play this violent game? Why does he do it?

"People want me to say I've lasted so long because I've taken care of my body," Slater says. "They want me to say I've watched a lot of films and know my opponents very well.

"They also want me to say I've played along side some of the best players who ever played in this game. All of this is true.

"But if I were to put my finger on one thing, it has to be the power of God working in my life. He has enabled me to do something I absolutely love. These things just didn't happen. They were God's will."

You are not going to argue with a man who has been selected to six Pro Bowls, was named the league's Offensive Lineman of the Year three times, and has set the NFL's longevity record for games played by an offensive lineman.

One day, Jackie Slater will awaken, look in the mirror, and see that he has grown old. He will have to admit that his football skills have deteriorated, his body has betrayed him, and that the best years are somewhere in the past.

That day, obviously is not here yet. Slater is under contract with the Rams. He wants to play one more year.

"I look over at ol' Blair, and I say, 'if he can do it, I can do it,'" Slater says. "I'm sure he says the same thing. We keep each other going."

There is a reason why Blair Bush is 38 and still playing in the NFL. He is a center, which is one of the most indestructible



positions in professional football. And he has prolonged his long career by becoming a specialist, a long snapper.

"I have great admiration for Clay Matthews and Mike Kenn who have played every down, every game, every season," says Bush. "I did that for 12 years before the wear and tear got to me. I would not be in the game now if I had to play full time."

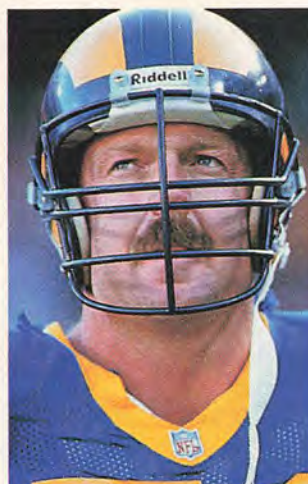
The Cincinnati Bengals drafted Bush out of the University of Washington. He was the 16th player chosen in the 1978 draft, and he became an immediate starter with the Bengals.

"It was tougher then," says Bush. "The game may be more physical now, but when I started there were tougher people from top to bottom--ownership, coaches, players. It was a meaner business because there wasn't as much money to spread around."

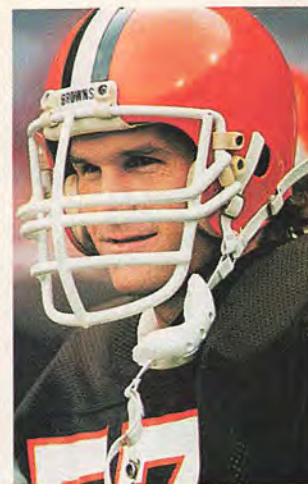
Blair points out something else. He spent five years in the league before he got into serious off-training programs and weight lifting.

The long snappers play a long time, longer than most players. Bush, who has played in 247 games, says he will know when to quit. "When they kick me out," he replies.

He is 39, but Clay Matthews is not some washed-up, played-out, surgically-repaired, former Cleveland Browns' has-been the Falcons signed as a free agent last year. In tremendous shape after a vigorous off-season conditioning program, Matthews played in a productive 15 games for Atlanta at the most grueling position of all, inside linebacker.



Blair Bush



Clay Matthews

Whenever the football showed up, Matthews did, too. He made 115 tackles, including 84 solos. Matthews has also played in 247 games. He has been slamming into hostile people all of his adult life. It gets addictive after a while.

He is the oldest player in a young man's position. He excels at knocking the lunch out of opponents. Nobody has done it better while having as much fun as is earthly possible. The injuries, he admits, are an occupational hazard. He has had his share of them, including a broken ankle that forced him to miss most of the 1982 season with the Browns.

Matthews enjoys the pounding. He also has a knack for business. He owns apartments and a small shopping center in Southern California, and is a partner in a Pontiac dealership in Cleveland.

He has a wife and five kids at home. So, why is he still playing football?

"I really enjoy the game," says Matthews. "There are a lot of people who enjoy it at first, but after three or four years of running into people at full speed, it gets kind of old for them. But not for me."

Matthews' enthusiasm for the game allows him to continue to play. He is fortunate to have a body that can hold up to physical abuse.

"My body has always healed when injured," he says. "Whatever aches and pain I have, I'm used to. They are no burden."

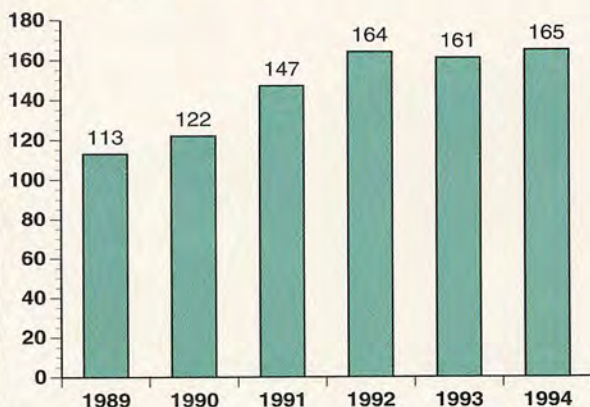
Matthews was 22 when he was the Browns' first-round draft choice out of USC in 1978. In his mind-set, he is still in his 20s.

"Every year the team adds a new set of 21, 22, 23 year-old kids," he says. "I don't work in a very mature workplace, so I don't feel old. When people remind me that I've played for 17 years, I feel it's just an average thing."

When tackle Mike Kenn was drafted out of Michigan on the first round by Atlanta in 1978, he thought he would play five years. Five years became 10 years. Then it became another year. One more became season No. 17 last year-- all with the Falcons.

New System Benefits Veterans

There were more tenth year and up players in the league in 1994.



Number of 10 Year & Up Players (1989-1994)

Players with 10 years of experience or more are showing more longevity under the new NFL system of free agency and salary caps. The chart shows a 31% increase in the number of players who reached the 10 year mark between 1989 and 1994.

SPECIAL SECTION PRODUCTION STAFF:

Advertising - Pat Allen, Aaron Jones, Clay Walker

Editorial - Gabriella Mazzucca, Carl Francis, Frank Woschitz

(Continued On Page 63)

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Fresh Look at Power Ratings

By James Lofton

Maybe one day a LOFTON will be as coveted as an Oscar or an Olympic bronze (you know, start small, aim high). Did I hear someone ask what a LOFTON is? Why, son, it is the ultimate proven statistical performance rating system for receivers and running backs, devised by the great former all pro wide receiver, **James Lofton**.

That would be me. But before we get to the 72MB RAM double spin CD 120MHz processing computer crunching numbers, let me tell you of the origin of the LOFTON.

It all started in 1984. Don't blame me, blame **Art Monk**. Yes, Art Monk will be the villain and I shall wear the white hat. For you Redskin fans, settle down please and let me explain.

Art had a terrific season in 1984. Okay, a great season. Art set a then NFL single season record

for receptions with 106. I couldn't help but feel sorry for myself in little old Green Bay. Hey, I caught 62 passes and Art only gained 11 more yards than I did. Where's the justice? Come on, anybody can see I deserve some credit or an asterisk or something. Just look at the numbers, baby! Art Monk, 106 receptions, 1,372 yards, 12.9 yards per catch, 7 touchdowns. James Lofton, 62 receptions, 1,361 yards, 22 yards per catch, 7 touchdowns.

So ten years later (not like I hold a grudge), I'm on a plane going to my job with CNN as a big time football analyst and it hits me. I grab a pencil and start ciphering just like Jethro. And the winner is...

Okay, first things first. The numbers aren't magic. The players produce them every game day. Sometimes you hear that stats are for losers. Yeah, if you don't have any, you're definitely a loser. On the team bus or plane ride back home guys will cower over the team's stats and their own little numbers for the whole trip, trying desperately to figure out how the game was really won or lost and by whom.

What the LOFTON will do is tell you for the first time in 75 years of NFL history who really is the

top rated receiver or the top rated running back. You'll still have to decide who to draft for your fantasy football league, but the LOFTON may give you the extra inside information to make game winning decisions. I'd bet there are a few general managers who might peek at the number before they give some stiff that multi-million dollar deal.

The judge (me, not Lester Hayes) looks at four categories:

1. The number of receptions
2. The yardage gained
3. The average per catch
4. Touchdowns

Each category is weighted (not William Perry) then put into my magical formula-- which by the way is a bigger secret than the whereabouts of that dreaded formula for NEW Coke!

And the winner is... **Jerry Rice** (112-1499-



Jerry Rice, power receiver



Emmitt Smith, power runner

13.4-13 TDs). No surprise when you watch this guy play week after week, touchdown after touchdown. Rice bests **Sterling Sharpe**, 131.5 to 126. Sharpe, who started the season by talking hold out, got hot late with 13 touchdowns over the final five weeks of the regular season. Sterling's play-off quest was cut short by a neck injury that required off season surgery. The Packers did some cutting of their own, trimming Sharpe off the roster and trying to keep the budget in check for 1995. **Tim Brown** was tops among AFC receivers with a LOFTON of 114.2, but he finished only sixth overall.

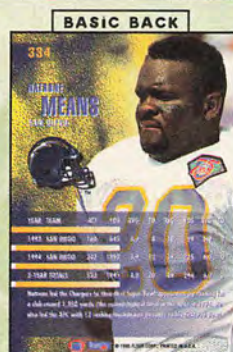
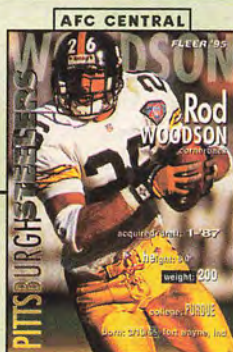
To my surprise, **Cris Carter**, who broke Sterling Sharpe's single season reception record with 122 catches, only managed a 105.2 LOFTON. Carter's rating was pulled down because of his low average per catch-- 10.3 and only 7 trips to the end zone. In Cris Carter's case what the numbers don't show is that he helped the Minnesota

(Continued on page 63)

Photos by Vernon Biever

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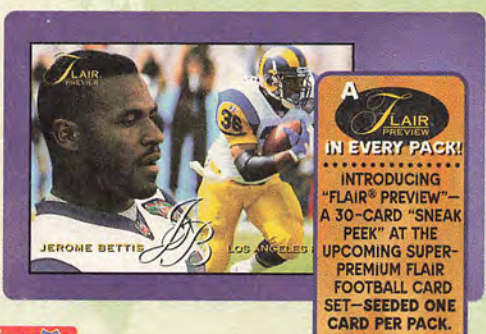
Odds 1:6 packs.



Odds 1:4 packs.



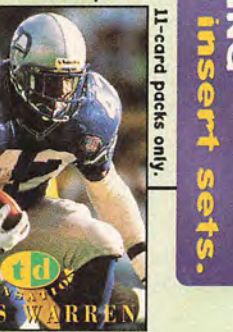
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Power Ratings

(Continued From Page 61)

Vikings win the NFC Central Division crown.

The question of the NFL's top running back is a simple two part question-- **Barry** or **Emmitt**? Style or substance? Power or finesse? Moves or unbelievable moves? Running backs do more work so more numbers are needed to calculate the LOFTON for these guys. The judge looks at five categories:

1. Number of carries
2. Yards gained
3. Average per carry
4. Long gain
5. Touchdowns

Let's cut to the chase and go chase running backs (that's called a segue way in broadcasting). Barry, 331 carries, Emmitt, 368, nod to Mr. Smith. Barry, 1883 yards, Emmitt, 1484-- Sanders. Average gain (not these two), Barry a whopping 5.7, Mr. Smith a respectable 4.0-- the Lion's share to Mr. Sanders. Long gain, Barry, 85 yards (362 moves were noted by NFL films in that run) to Emmitt's long jaunt of 46 yards (he would have gone further but bumped into Michael Irvin saluting the crowd). Touchdowns, Barry 7 trips (we'll have to petition Wayne Fontes to leave him in on goal line situations), hello Emmitt-- 21 trips to TD land.

Emmitt Smith is the king for 1994-- 118.3 to 106.5 over Barry Sanders. (Check the box for top 20 leaders).

Okay, so who do you take with your first pick in next year's fantasy draft? You've got the LOFTONs and the pick shall be. . .

But back to our original starting point--the 1984 Monk or Lofton debate. Art Monk, 106-1372-12.9-7 TDs, your host, James Lofton, 62-1361-22-7TDs. The winner and still author, James Lofton's LOFTON of 122 to Art Monk's LOFTON of 110.5. Actually, **Mark Clayton**, 73-1389-19-18TDs, had a 145.4 LOFTON in 1984, but we'll keep that our little secret.

Top 20-- LOFTON Power Rating

RECEIVERS:

J Rice SF	131.5
S Sharpe GB	126.0
T Mathis ATL	119.1
H Ellard WAS	115.7
H Moore DET	115.6
T Brown RAID	114.2
C Pickens CIN	113.2
A Reed BUF	111.3
I Fryar MIA	111.0
M Sherrard NYG	108.5

RUNNING BACKS:

E Smith DAL	118.3
B Sanders DET	106.5
C Warren SEA	92.3
M Faulk IND	91.4
N Means SD	91.2
T Allen MIN	74.0
T Thomas BUF	72.2
R Hampton NYG	71.7
J Johnson NYJ	69.6
E Rhett TB	69.2

IRON MEN of the NFL

(Continued From Page 59)

"When I was drafted, you couldn't retire on a signing bonus," Kenn says. "You had to buy a car, put a down payment on a house, and go back to work in the off-season."

"It's different now. Players are a lot more celebrated coming into the NFL, and it starts on draft day."

"They have an inflated opinion of themselves. Some of them wake up and smell the coffee. They mature and it doesn't become a problem. Others end up cutting short what could be a very long and prosperous career."

The decision to retire never comes easy for a player who is willing to make all the sacrifices. After he played in his 251st game, Kenn convinced himself that the moment was right to call it quits.

"I could have played another year," he says. "Mentally, I was not able to see myself recovering and preparing for another season. It was just too much time, too much work."

Kenn used football as a springboard into business opportunities. He owns two restaurants and is building his third in the Atlanta area. He is also president of the National Football League Players Association.

"I don't think anyone is going to play as long as Jackie Slater, Blair Bush, Clay Matthews, and myself because they don't have to," Kenn states. "They are making a lot of money in a hurry. These guys are young millionaires when they get drafted."

So, enjoy whatever you see of them in the time they have left. They will be the old guys, giving it their best shots.

Bud Lea covered the Green Bay Packers for 42 years for the Milwaukee Sentinel. Photos courtesy of the Topps Co. Inc.

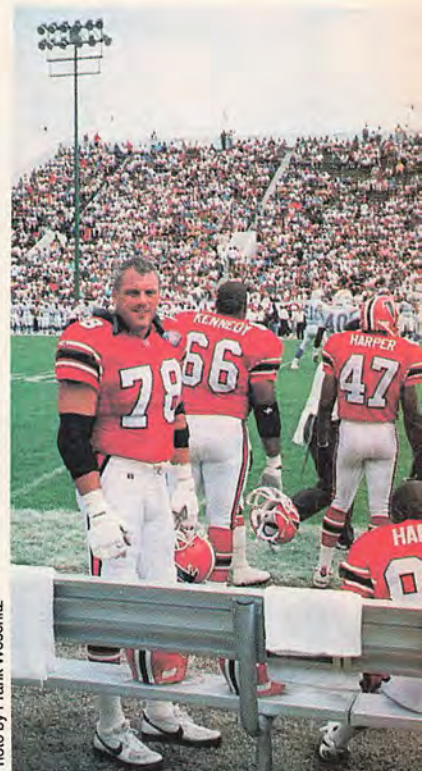


Photo by Frank Woschitz

Although his teammates feel Mike Kenn has been a Falcon forever, he really is only modeling the original team uniform at the 1995 Hall of Fame game.



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A Whole New Ball Game - PLAYERS

By Pat Allen



Popular Music Group Boyz II Men featured on opening night at the World's Largest Super Bowl Party.



Pro Bowler Mel Gray, Lions, models distinctive PLAYERS INC hat.



Fans pack official PLAYERS party.



Marco Coleman, Dolphins, is one of many autograph signers.

Photos by Rick Diamond

NFL players are taking off their uniforms and showing some muscle! They're hitting the streets to show fans what they are really made of.

PLAYERS INC, celebrating its first anniversary, has added some punch to the sports marketing arena. As the licensing and marketing subsidiary of the NFL Players Association, the mission of PLAYERS INC is to promote player popularity, both on and off the field.

PLAYERS INC is the first, and so far only, example of a separate, for-profit company being formed by a sports union to combine player group licensing with a full range of sports marketing activities.

NFL players took South Florida by storm at the World's Largest Super Bowl Party, an event co-owned by **Marcus Allen, Ronnie Lott** and PLAYERS INC and co-hosted by **Dan Marino**. Over 300 active and retired NFL players interacted with fans for autograph signings, a training camp for kids, a "throw the bomb" football contest and other interactive sports.

Grammy award winning entertainers Boyz II Men sang their hearts out on opening night to a crowd of over 7,500, meandering through the crowd and greeting fans and players.

The party will take on a new look this year as the "NFL Players Party" moves west to the site of Super Bowl XXX-- Phoenix, AZ. The city of Phoenix is rolling out the red carpet for players and fans to welcome what will be the official Super Bowl event in town.

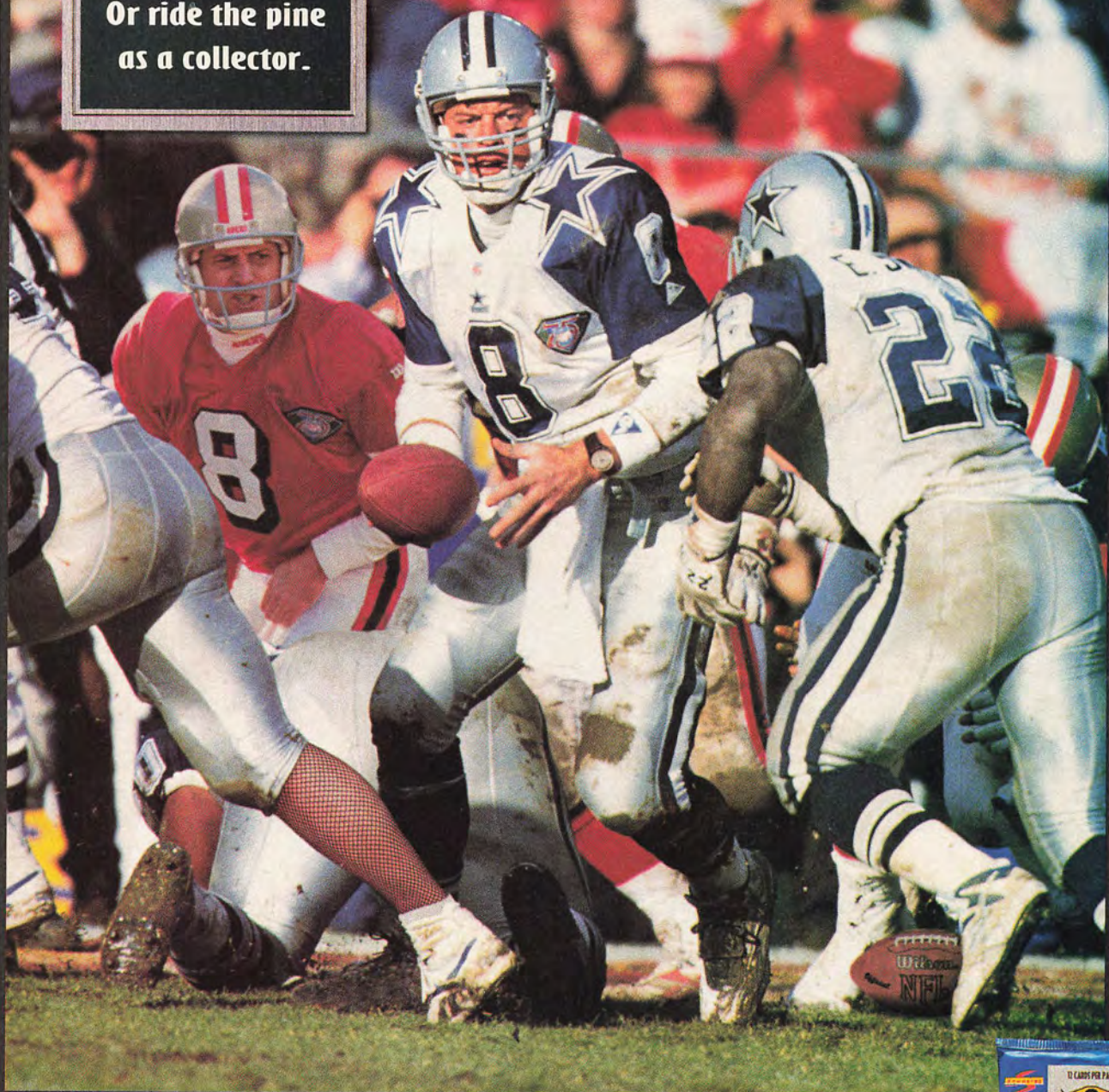
Other projects on tap for PLAYERS INC are a record and video project featuring NFL players as performers teamed with top rap and country artists, the Players Golf Club, more publishing projects with Street & Smith, a PLAYERS INC clothing line, and other upcoming projects.




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Toeing A Fine Line — From Field To Media Room

By Len Pasquarelli

From his Sunday afternoon vantage point at the network's sprawling headquarters in a downtown Atlanta hotel-and-entertainment complex, CNN professional football analyst **James Lofton** can gaze at an eight-foot wall of television monitors and peruse any one of the day's NFL offerings.

The glitzy, every-game-at-your-fingertips environment might graphically portray the modern-day definition of sensory overload, but it also enables the league's all-time leader in receiving yardage to assess players, teams, and coaches from a unique perspective most hard-core fans would kill to have. The critical matchup in Giants Stadium may in reality be a thousand miles removed from the showdown being waged in the Superdome, but for Lofton the contests are just a couple of TV screens apart.

No degree of high-tech gimmickry, however, can ever afford Lofton the brand of rare insight he gained during stints as a standout wide receiver with five different NFL clubs.

"It definitely gives you an edge, the firsthand experience of having been there, done that, seen this," said Lofton recently when asked about how his past life impacts his present vocation.



Howie Long-- "critic"

Indeed, the articulate and thought-provoking Lofton is one of dozens of former NFL players-- not all of them working at the network level-- who regularly toe a very fine line between the guys currently in the exclusive players' fraternity and the ones who have moved on. They range from all-time greats like **Terry Bradshaw**, **Howie Long**, and **Anthony Munoz** (all now employed by Fox Broadcasting) to onetime spearcarriers **Mark Malone** (ESPN), **Randy Cross** (NBC), **Ronnie Pitts** (Fox), and **Jeff Van Note** (WSB/Atlanta).

And the ranks extend beyond just the boundaries of the electronic media. Former Cincinnati punter **Pat McNally** for years authored a newspaper column directed toward kids in which he used sports to emphasize key lessons for life. Onetime Atlanta Falcons defensive end **Tim Green**, an analyst for Fox, writes a weekly column for a Syracuse newspaper, does commentary on National Public Radio, and recently completed his third novel, *Outlaws*.

No matter the medium, the message is still the

same: those who may have run hard between the lines sometimes have to tread softly outside of them.

"If you're someone who has been privy to 'inside stuff,' who has lived in that locker room world, then I think you err on the side of conservatism most times," said current Houston Oilers tailback

Spencer Tillman, who has spent the past eight off-seasons as a sports reporter for that city's KPRC-TV. "You tend to respect the (players') privacy, perhaps, a little more because of your own experiences as a player. There are situations, where it's definitely a high-wire balancing act."



Terry Bradshaw-- "ol' bayou"

Talk to a reporter who has been a player, and he's likely to tell you about the mind-bending games-- the struggle to maintain relationships in his former field while establishing credibility in his new one. The transition from being accountable to a coach to being answerable to a producer can at times be an awkward one.

Noted former Pittsburgh quarterback Mark Malone on that subject: "There definitely exists the task of bridging the two worlds. Guys look at you like, 'Hey, you're one of us, how can you be asking me that kind of question?' So you spend some soul-searching time trying to reconcile in your own mind where the football ends and the journalism begins-- or how they mix."

An eight-year NFL veteran with the Oilers and San Francisco 49ers, Spencer Tillman is certainly an anomaly in that he is one of the few players to seriously pursue a career in broadcasting while still remaining an active player. Through the years, of course, many players have filled the



Spencer Tillman-- "balancing act"

time as weekend sports anchors. But Tillman's experiences supersede just smiling into the monitor and reading scores off the TelePrompter. He aspires to go beyond that, and because he does, considers himself a full-fledged newsman.

"The tough part is," said Tillman, "You're

(Continued On Page 69)

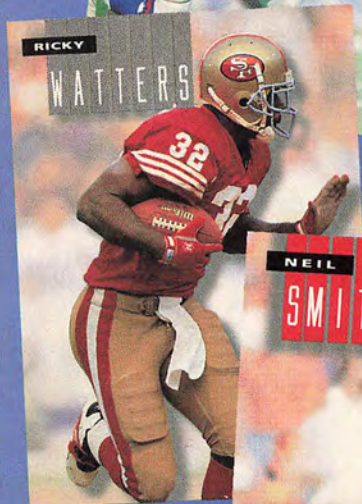
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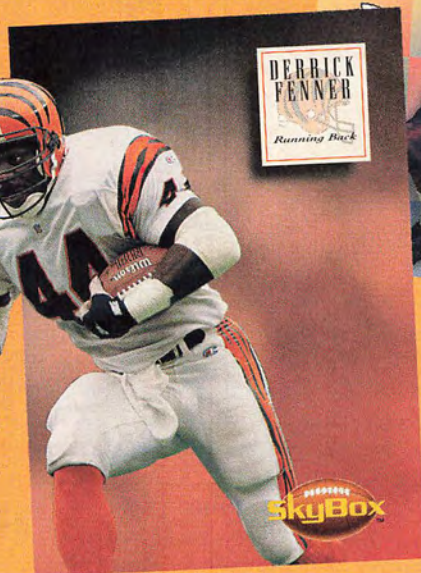
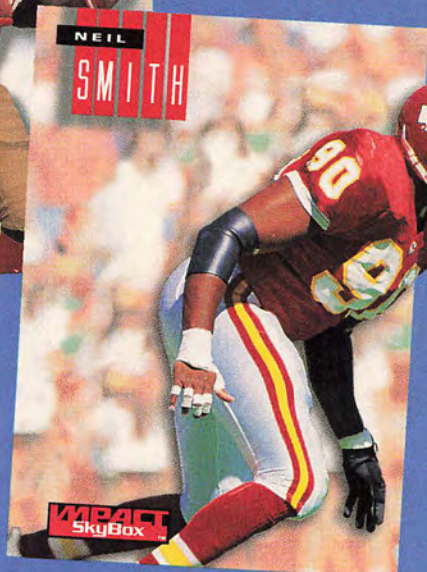


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Toeing A Fine Line

(Continued From Page 67)

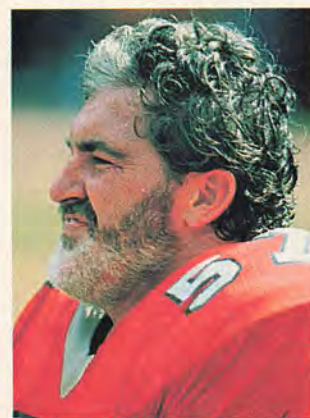
inwardly still a professional athlete. Even after I retire, my mindset will be that of the journalist-athlete. And while I've given a lot of thought to the matter, I'll be the first to admit that (I have) no idea what the standard statute of limitations is on the 'athlete' part of that."

That is, of course, what Randy Cross, a former guard/center with the Niners, refers to as the "classic conflict" for anyone who steps off the field and then behind a microphone. Players spend years bonding together, building up alliances and friendships within the private confines of their rather elite fraternity. At what point, though, do those alliances cease to exist?

The gut-wrenching conundrums every athlete-turned-journalist faces at some point in his second career: If the line of questioning becomes too difficult, the current players are frequently angered, feeling as if a former comrade-in-arms has turned on them. "They feel you've betrayed them somehow," said Munoz. "It's as if they feel you sold out to the establishment." Conversely, however, networks and even local media outlets aren't paying former players to be "soft" on their onetime teammates.

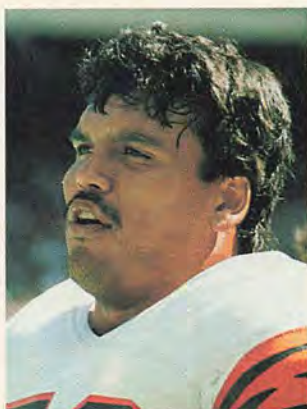
Howie Long has at times in his brief career at Fox been critical of the media, perhaps losing sight of the fact that he is now a part of the element he occasionally seeks to condemn.

"There's a middle ground-- not necessarily a compromise position, but a middle ground of diplomacy-- that some people don't try to find," said Long. "What we see too often is a lot of knee-jerk."



Jeff Van Note - "credible"

with a down-home irreverence that works well for him. Bradshaw hasn't thrown a pass in a dozen seasons and has seen a generation of players come



Anthony Munoz - no softy

A Hall of Fame quarterback and four-time Super Bowl champion, Terry Bradshaw's method is to break down the "sacred cow" status some people have attached to the game and treat the whole thing

and go since he retired. He still feels a bond to today's player-- "There's always a common denominator for anyone who's ever played in the league," he said-- but also realizes he has a job to do.

There have been times, like when he angered Denver quarterback John Elway with his comments, that Bradshaw has caught heat for doing his job.

But he believes the ol' bayou approach-- keep an open dialogue for exchange of ideas and always strive to be as fair and objective as possible-- is a solid one.

"You can have an opinion, and you should. . . because that's what it's all about, right?" said Bradshaw. "Where people get into trouble is not having an educated opinion. If you take the lazy way out and don't try to get to the bottom of things . . . Well, shame on you. When I was playing, I wanted (reporters) to be fair that's all."

Few have learned the art better than Tim Green, whose novels have explored some of the game's darker sides. Clearly, in *Ruffians*, *Titans*, and *Outlaws*, Green has drawn from personal experiences, but the stories are more general in nature and never has the budding novelist betrayed a teammate.

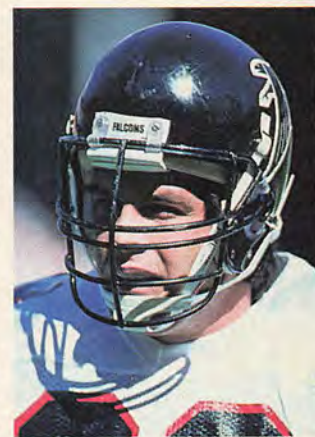
As an analyst for Fox, the former Rhodes scholar finalist is an engaging conversationalist, a player possessing an obvious facility with language. At the same time, the athlete-turned-broadcaster has a built-in responsibility to choose his words carefully.

"Players have a habit of reading more into things than might actually be there," he said. "By the nature of the business, you're a bit thin-skinned. Now, when you move on and

you're interviewing people, you can't soft-peddle things, but you can keep in mind how you felt when you were on the other side of the microphone."

Said Van Note: "We all want to be credible and believable and crack the big story. But you can do that in a professional manner. We should treat this (media) job with the same sense of detail and professionalism and fair-play that we did with the job we used to do."

Len Pasquarelli is an NFL beat writer for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Photos courtesy of Topps Co., Inc.



Tim Green - novelist



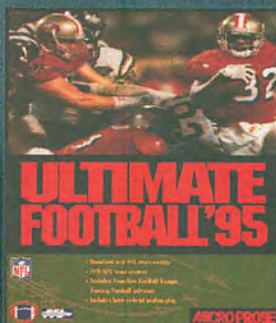
Randy Cross - "classic conflict"

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Turf is Tuff Stuff

By Gabriella Mazzucca

Does playing on artificial turf increase a player's chances of suffering an injury? Does it shorten a career in the NFL? The results are not yet conclusive, but the National Football League Players Association is working with turf specialists, scientists, and agronomists to determine just how dangerous turf is.

However, consider these facts. The NFLPA conducted a survey on NFL clubs' playing surfaces which revealed that 85% of the 965 players who responded prefer to play on natural grass. About 70% of the players felt that playing on natural grass is important in selecting the teams they would consider signing with as free agents.

This correlates to the fact that of the 83 unrestricted free agents (as of 4/15/95), 66 either moved to or stayed with grass fields.

Players were asked which fields in the NFL are the best and worst. The top three best fields are Tampa Bay, Kansas City, and Arizona. The worst three fields are Philadelphia, Chicago, and Cincinnati.

The survey revealed that 93% of NFL players believe that artificial turf is more likely to contribute to injury than is grass; 96% believe that artificial turf causes more soreness; 91% believe that artificial turf is more likely to shorten their careers; 90% believe that artificial turf is more likely to worsen their quality of life after football.

The chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSCP) has called for an evaluation of efforts by high school and college sports administrators and voluntary standard organizations to improve the safety of playing fields on artificial turf.

Eight NCAA schools have recently replaced artificial turf

playing surfaces with natural grass. They include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Ohio, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Tennessee and 13 more teams may follow by the end of 1995.

Fourteen of the 28 NFL teams play home games on artificial turf. Every player in the NFL must play some games each season on its surface. Studying injuries from 1980-89, special teams players had 223 injuries on turf and 164 on grass.

The impact on turf is greater than on grass. A thin carpet of synthetic fiber lies atop a layer of foam 5/8" thick, which covers a base of porous asphalt. The surface is less resilient than grass, and much harder. Former

Philadelphia Eagles player **Frank LeMaster** commented that, "It's like playing football in the street with a carpet on it."

Marcus Allen, Kansas City Chiefs, has stated, "That stuff should not be used by anybody. No human should have to walk on that stuff."

At this time, no conclusive evidence has been found that playing on artificial turf increases the chance of injury. But concerned individuals are attempting to lessen the chances by reducing the number of playing fields with the surface. The NFL and NFLPA have also established a Players' Safety and Welfare Committee which is looking into the health and safety of playing surfaces.



(Top) Asphalt, padding form the base for Artificial Turf field. (Above) Seams on older turf tear & bulge. (Left) Grass is lush on NFL's best field, Tampa Bay.

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EXPANSION

Tale of Two Cities

By Charles Chandler

The words of former NFL commissioner **Pete Rozelle** echo in **Jerry Richardson's** mind frequently now as the Carolina Panthers' first season approaches.

"Jerry," Rozelle said in the fall of 1993 when the NFL was preparing to choose its new expansion teams, "this will give you an opportunity to leave a great legacy to the Carolinas, perhaps even greater than anybody else in your lifetime."

"It will change your life. It will change the lives of your family members, your close friends, and thousands of other people you don't even know."

Such is the impact when an NFL team, the most prized of all pro sports franchises, emerges in a new city. The sports, entertainment, social, and economic landscape of an entire region changes dramatically. The team energizes the area, and vice versa.

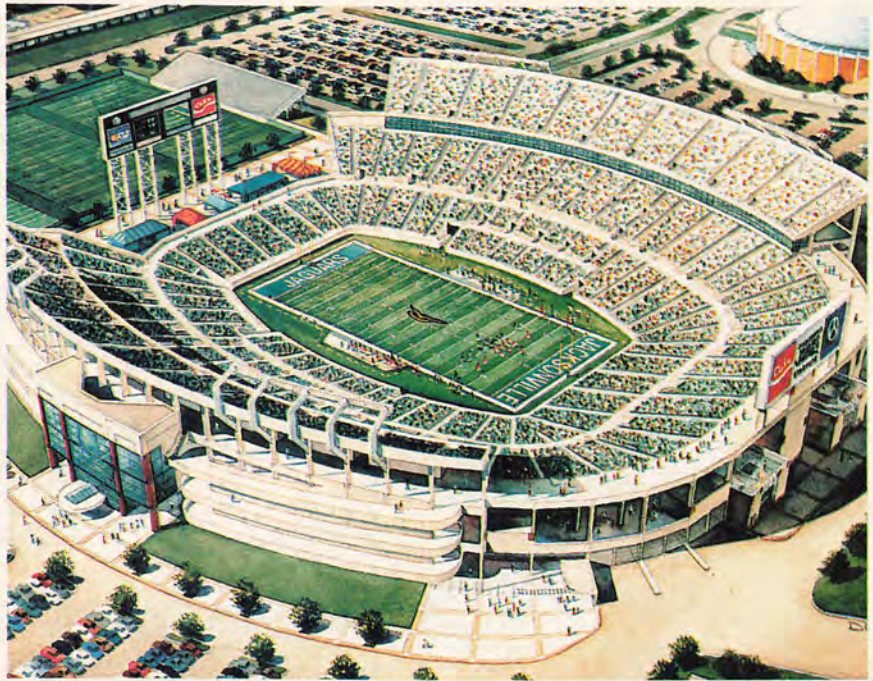
"The NFL makes so many contributions to an area," says Hall of Fame running back **Jim Brown**, who starred from 1956-65 for the Cleveland Browns. "It creates revenue. It creates stars. It creates entertainment. If you look at Cleveland, the Browns are probably the most important element in the total community. People feel a kinship with them. They live and die with them."

Richardson, the Panthers' owner, has brought that to Charlotte and to two states, North and South Carolina.

Wayne Weaver, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars, has done the same thing in Jacksonville and the north Florida/south Georgia area.

The Panthers and Jaguars open play this season as the NFL's first expansion teams since the Seattle Seahawks and Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1976.

Though not much is expected



Jacksonville's new Gator Bowl.



Charlotte's new stadium, to be completed in 1996.

from a competitive standpoint--the Buccaneers and Seahawks were a combined 2-26 in '76--both areas are abuzz with anticipation.

Jacksonville has sold out the

73,000 seat Gator Bowl, which has been almost completely rebuilt in time for this season.

Carolina's new stadium won't open until the 1996 season, so

(Continued On Page 76)

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EXPANSION

Tale of Two Cities

(Continued From Page 74)

the Panthers are playing their 1995 "home" games 150 miles from Charlotte at 81,000 seat Memorial Stadium in Clemson, SC. Partly due to the proximity problem, 30,000 tickets per game remained for sale as the team headed to training camp.

But the Panthers expect full houses in Charlotte starting in '96 and while they trail Jacksonville in ticket sales, they already rank among the NFL leaders in media coverage.

Nine newspapers in North and South Carolina have assigned beat reporters to cover the Panthers on a daily basis. Television stations from Raleigh, NC to Charleston, SC-- cities six hours apart-- plan to travel with the teams to away games. On the first day of the Panthers' first minicamp (April 28), 50 media representatives attended.

The presence of the Jaguars and Panthers is expected to pump millions of dollars of revenue into the two regions. Economists have predicted an annual impact of \$130.9 million in Jacksonville and \$280 million in and around Charlotte.

And how do you put a price tag on what the teams have done and will do for the national image of the two cities?

The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce opened a national marketing campaign in April with a full-page ad in the New York Times unveiling the slogan "Jacksonville: An Expansion City."

"This area courted an NFL franchise for a long time, but had been left at the altar," says Jaguars vice president of football operations **Michael Hyughue**. "Now it's been given an identity it didn't have before. There's a momentum that's been built here. There's a great sense of pride. It's a whole facelift."

In Charlotte, the arrival of the Panthers marks the culmination



Photo by Les Duggins

Frank Reich gets starting shot at Carolina.

of a 20-year metamorphosis. In 1975, the city was dubbed a "graveyard of professional sports" after losing minor league baseball and hockey teams, the American Basketball Association's Carolina Cougars and a World Football League franchise.

The Panthers now join three highly successful pro sports franchises in Charlotte-- the NBA's Charlotte Hornets, the Class AAA minor league baseball Charlotte Knights, and the East Coast Hockey League's Charlotte Checkers.

Two Panthers players, punter **Tommy Barnhardt** of China Grove, NC, and wide receiver **Greg Clifton** of Charlotte, grew up in the area and marvel at the transformation that's now tak-

ing place. "Everything is going to be an eye-opener for people around here," says Barnhardt, who spent the previous six years with the New Orleans Saints.

As much anticipation as there is for the arrival of the Panthers, Richardson says fans "don't have a clue" what having a team of their own is going to be like.

And Carolina tight end **Pete Metzelaars**, who played in four Super Bowls with the Buffalo Bills, says Charlotte is still early in its maturation process as an NFL city.

"I come from what was a football-crazy situation in Buffalo," Metzelaars says. "That city revolves around what goes on with the Buffalo Bills. The people talk about it 365 days a year, almost 24 hours a day. Here it's a little bit different. There are other things going on and we haven't played a game yet. But I'm guessing once the games begin, this thing is going to catch fire."

The players and coaches for the Jaguars and Panthers are experiencing one of the most unique happenings in pro sports. They are charter members of two new franchises which start out with a clean slate. There's no tradition and no past, only present and future.

Veterans from all of the other

28 teams dot the rosters of the Panthers and Jaguars. Jacksonville players include quarterbacks **Steve Beuerlein** (Cardinals) and **Andre Ware** (Lions), wide receiver **Desmond Howard** (Redskins), and defensive end **Jeff Lageman** (Jets). The Panthers roster features linebackers **Lamar Lathon** (Oilers) and **Sam Mills** (Saints), defensive



Jacksonville's Andre Ware and Coach Tom Coughlin.

(Continued On Page 78)

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Road to Halls Of Fame And Congress

By Gabriella Mazzucca

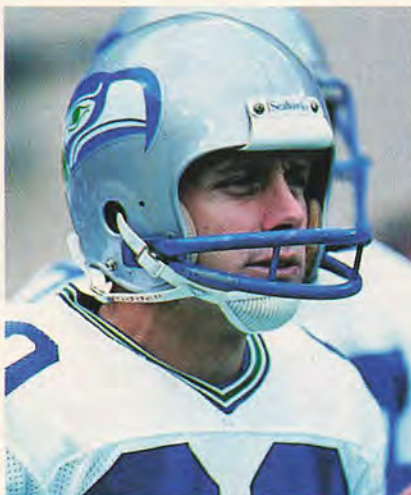
At age 40, **Steve Largent** has accomplished things most men only dream about. He spent 14 years in the NFL with the Seattle Seahawks, set six different career records, and played in seven Pro Bowls. He is second in all-time receptions with 819, in yardage with 13,089 yards, and in touchdowns with 100.

In 1989 he called it quits, and after five years in a successful business, took his career in yet a different direction. On November 29, 1994, Steve Largent was sworn into the 103rd Congress to fill the vacant First Congressional District Seat of Oklahoma. On January 4, 1995, Largent campaigned for and won the First Congressional Seat.

On January 28, 1995, he was selected for induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, his first year of eligibility.

His life, especially of late, seems a success story of incredible proportion, but Steve Largent does not take his many accomplishments for granted or let his success overwhelm him.

He says he is surprised at the way his career has turned, that he never planned on pursuing a career in either football or politics. He says that in school he was always "too small and too slow for football and had no interest in politics—I wasn't even in Student Government."



U.S. Congressman Steve Largent.

When the First District Seat became open in 1994, Steve's wife Terry encouraged him to "throw his hat in the ring."

He says the ultimate decision was based upon his family. He felt that as a responsible husband and father he had to show his commitment to the future of the country and his children.

He feels that his notoriety on the football field was a double-edged sword in his political race. While the name recognition helped him in the polls, the typical stereotype of professional athletes, particularly football players, caused many to question whether he was capable of handling the job.

However, Largent sees many similarities between his current and past professions. "As both,

you are a member of a team. Both are based on relationships and how you interact with others. You must build coalitions, work with people, listen, learn and compromise. And most importantly, learn to put your own ego on the shelf," he says.

Regardless of how long or how celebrated his political career, Largent does not forget his roots. He feels that his career in football presented him with the opportunities he has since enjoyed.

"I love the game. It's been a part of my life since I was nine years old," he says. "Some of the most influential people in my life were my coaches and teammates. They helped mold and develop my character."

As an amazing success story, Steve Largent is certainly a role model for young and old alike. Commenting upon players' roles today, he says that like it or not, professional athletes are role models. They are afforded great opportunities to lead in cultural changes in the country and he feels that they should emphasize parenting, fatherhood, and family life, that this is where they can make a difference.

It seems likely that the man, who was too small and too slow to play football, had no interest in politics, entered the Pro Hall of Fame his first year of eligibility, and won a Congressional election on his first attempt, can deliver that message to athletes.

Tale Of Two Cities

(Continued From Page 76)

back **Tim McKyer** (Steelers), and quarterback **Frank Reich** (Bills).

Part of the charm of the Jaguars and Panthers is the mystery surrounding the competitive impact they'll make in the NFL this season. Their fans have modest expectations. At least in this first season, just being in the league will be enough.

But how good or bad will the new teams be? Just how much should be expected of two rosters that had zero players until last December? Former San Francisco 49ers coach **Bill Walsh** says because of free agency, the expansion teams could do as well as a 6-10 record. Atlanta player personnel director **Ken Herock**, who held a similar position with Tampa Bay in its inaugural season, agrees.

"We've come a long way from

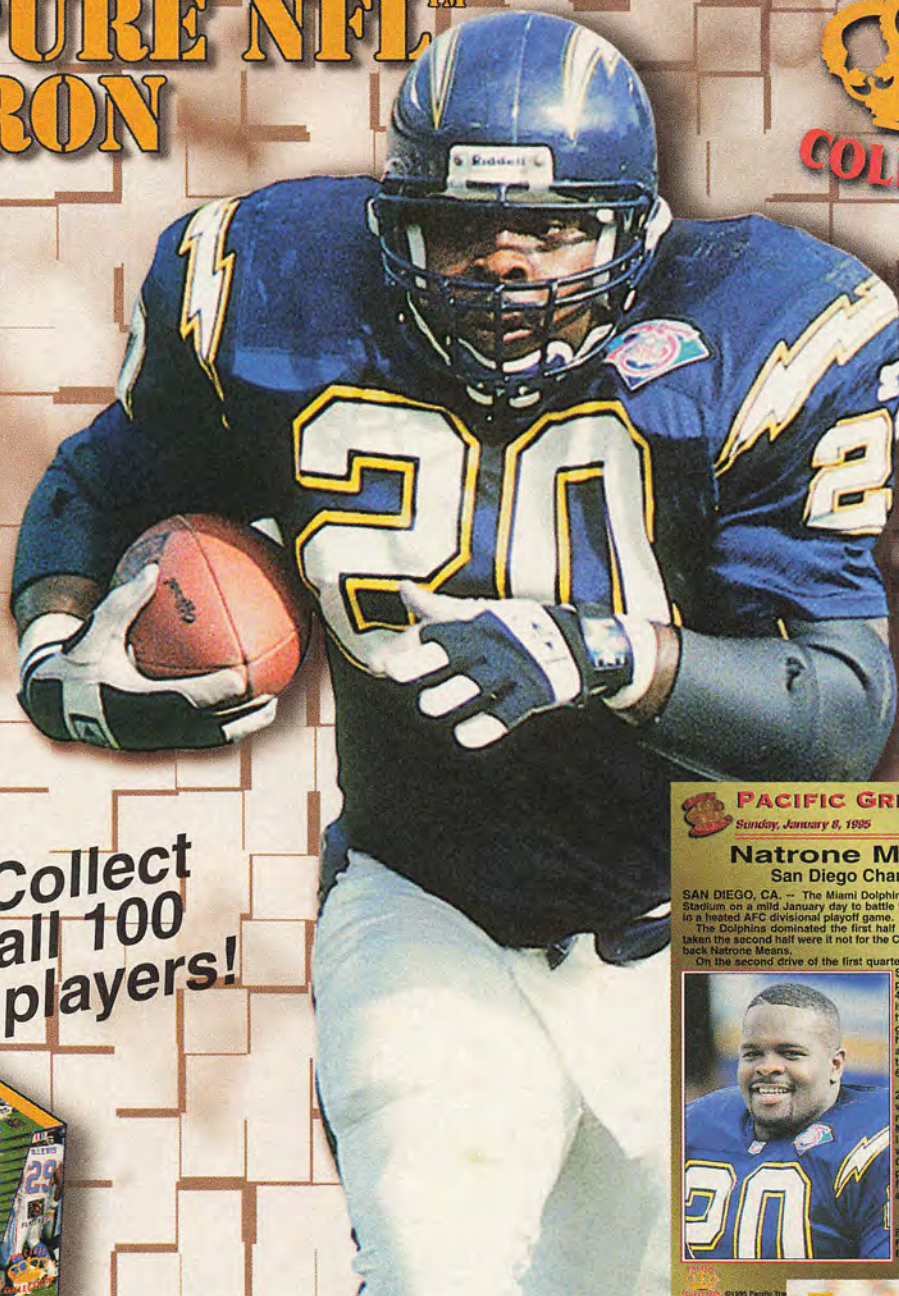
where we were," Charlotte coach **Dom Capers** says. "But we're a long way from where we want to be."

Richardson knows where he wants to go. "What I try to picture every day," Richardson says, "is what it will feel like when we win the Super Bowl."

In Jacksonville, Wayne Weaver imagines the same thing.

Charles Chandler is a sports reporter for the Charlotte Observer.

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On the second drive of the first quarter, Chargers quarterback Stan Humphries snapped the ball from his own 46-yard line and handed it to Means who muscled his way to a 19-yard gain. At halftime, Means had posted 10 rushing attempts for 79 yards as the Chargers trailed 21-6.

The Chargers took a 22-21 lead to secure the win with less than a minute left in the game. Means posted 139 rushing yards for the day and went on to lead the Chargers through the playoffs and on to their first Super Bowl appearance in club history.

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Sunday, September 3

Cincinnati at Indianapolis
Carolina at Atlanta
Cleveland at New England
Detroit at Pittsburgh
Houston at Jacksonville
San Francisco at New Orleans
St. Louis at Green Bay
Tampa Bay at Philadelphia
Arizona at Washington
Kansas City at Seattle
Minnesota at Chicago
N.Y. Jets at Miami
San Diego at L.A. Raiders
Buffalo at Denver (N)

Monday, September 4

Dallas at N.Y. Giants (N)

Sunday, September 10

Carolina at Buffalo
Detroit at Minnesota
L.A. Raiders at Washington
Miami at New England
N.Y. Giants at Kansas City
New Orleans at St. Louis
Pittsburgh at Houston
Tampa Bay at Cleveland
Atlanta at San Francisco
Denver at Dallas
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets
Jacksonville at Cincinnati
Seattle at San Diego
Philadelphia at Arizona (N)

Monday, September 11

Green Bay at Chicago (N)

Sunday, September 17

Arizona at Detroit
Atlanta at New Orleans
Cleveland at Houston
Indianapolis at Buffalo
L.A. Raiders at Kansas City
N.Y. Giants at Green Bay
San Diego at Philadelphia
St. Louis at Carolina
Chicago at Tampa Bay
Cincinnati at Seattle
Jacksonville at N.Y. Jets
New England at San Francisco
Washington at Denver
Dallas at Minnesota (N)

Monday, September 18

Pittsburgh at Miami (N)

Sunday, September 24

(Open Dates: Buffalo, Carolina, Indianapolis, Miami, New England, Seattle)
Chicago at St. Louis
Minnesota at Pittsburgh
New Orleans at N.Y. Giants
Washington at Tampa Bay
Arizona at Dallas
Denver at San Diego
Houston at Cincinnati
Kansas City at Cleveland
N.Y. Jets at Atlanta
Philadelphia at L.A. Raiders
Green Bay at Jacksonville (N)

Monday, September 25

San Francisco at Detroit (N)

Sunday, October 1

(Open Dates: Chicago, Detroit, Green Bay, Minnesota)
Dallas at Washington
Miami at Cincinnati
New England at Atlanta
Philadelphia at New Orleans
St. Louis at Indianapolis
Tampa Bay at Carolina
Denver at Seattle
Jacksonville at Houston
Kansas City at Arizona
N.Y. Giants at San Francisco
San Diego at Pittsburgh
L.A. Raiders at N.Y. Jets (N)

Monday, October 2

Buffalo at Cleveland (N)

Sunday, October 8

(Open Dates: Atlanta, New Orleans, San Francisco, St. Louis)
Carolina at Chicago
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay
Green Bay at Dallas
Houston at Minnesota
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville
Washington at Philadelphia
Arizona at N.Y. Giants
Cleveland at Detroit
Indianapolis at Miami
Seattle at L.A. Raiders
Denver at New England (N)

Monday, October 9

San Diego at Kansas City (N)

Thursday, October 12

(Open Dates: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Houston, Pittsburgh)
Atlanta at St. Louis (N)

Sunday, October 15

Chicago at Jacksonville
Detroit at Green Bay
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
New England at Kansas City
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
San Francisco at Indianapolis
Seattle at Buffalo
Dallas at San Diego
Miami at New Orleans
N.Y. Jets at Carolina
Washington at Arizona

Monday, October 16

L.A. Raiders at Denver (N)

Thursday, October 19

(Open Dates: Arizona, Dallas, N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia)
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh (N)

Sunday, October 22

Atlanta at Tampa Bay
Detroit at Washington
Houston at Chicago
Jacksonville at Cleveland
Miami at N.Y. Jets
Minnesota at Green Bay
New Orleans at Carolina
Indianapolis at L.A. Raiders
Kansas City at Denver
San Diego at Seattle
San Francisco at St. Louis

Monday, October 23

Buffalo at New England (N)

Sunday, October 29

(Open Dates: Denver, Kansas City, L.A. Raiders, San Diego)
Carolina at New England
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Dallas at Atlanta
Green Bay at Detroit
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis
St. Louis at Philadelphia
Buffalo at Miami
New Orleans at San Francisco
Seattle at Arizona
Tampa Bay at Houston
N.Y. Giants at Washington (N)

Monday, October 30

Chicago at Minnesota (N)

Sunday, November 5

(Open Dates: Jacksonville, Tampa Bay)
Buffalo at Indianapolis
Detroit at Atlanta
Green Bay at Minnesota
Houston at Cleveland
New England at N.Y. Jets
St. Louis at New Orleans
Washington at Kansas City
Arizona at Denver
Carolina at San Francisco
L.A. Raiders at Cincinnati
N.Y. Giants at Seattle
Pittsburgh at Chicago
Miami at San Diego (N)

Monday, November 6

Philadelphia at Dallas (N)

Sunday, November 12

(Open Dates: N.Y. Jets, Washington)
Atlanta at Buffalo
Carolina at St. Louis
Chicago at Green Bay
Cincinnati at Houston
Indianapolis at New Orleans
L.A. Raiders at N.Y. Giants
New England at Miami
Seattle at Jacksonville
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Kansas City at San Diego
Minnesota at Arizona
San Francisco at Dallas
Denver at Philadelphia (N)

Monday, November 13

Cleveland at Pittsburgh (N)

Sunday, November 19

Arizona at Carolina
Detroit at Chicago
Green Bay at Cleveland
Indianapolis at New England
Jacksonville at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
Seattle at Washington
St. Louis at Atlanta
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
Dallas at L.A. Raiders
New Orleans at Minnesota
San Diego at Denver
Houston at Kansas City (N)

Monday, November 20

San Francisco at Miami (N)

Thursday, November 23

Minnesota at Detroit
Kansas City at Dallas

Sunday, November 26

Chicago at N.Y. Jets
Cincinnati at Jacksonville
Miami at Indianapolis
New England at Buffalo
Philadelphia at Washington
Tampa Bay at Green Bay
Atlanta at Arizona
Denver at Houston
N.Y. Jets at Seattle
Pittsburgh at Cleveland
St. Louis at San Francisco
Carolina at New Orleans (N)

Monday, November 27

L.A. Raiders at San Diego (N)

Thursday, November 30

N.Y. Giants at Arizona (N)

Sunday, December 3

Atlanta at Miami
Cincinnati at Green Bay
Houston at Pittsburgh
Indianapolis at Carolina
New Orleans at New England
St. Louis at N.Y. Jets
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Cleveland at San Diego
Jacksonville at Denver
Kansas City at L.A. Raiders
Philadelphia at Seattle
Washington at Dallas
Buffalo at San Francisco (N)

Monday, December 4

Chicago at Detroit (N)

Saturday, December 9

Cleveland at Minnesota
Arizona at San Diego

Sunday, December 10

Buffalo at St. Louis
Chicago at Cincinnati
Dallas at Philadelphia
Detroit at Houston
Indianapolis at Jacksonville
N.Y. Jets at New England
New Orleans at Atlanta
San Francisco at Carolina
Pittsburgh at L.A. Raiders
Seattle at Denver
Washington at N.Y. Giants
Green Bay at Tampa Bay (N)

Monday, December 11

Kansas City at Miami (N)

Saturday, December 16

New England at Pittsburgh
Green Bay at New Orleans

Sunday, December 17

Arizona at Philadelphia
Atlanta at Carolina
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Jacksonville at Detroit
Miami at Buffalo
N.Y. Jets at Houston
Tampa Bay at Chicago
Washington at St. Louis
Denver at Kansas City
N.Y. Giants at Dallas
San Diego at Indianapolis
L.A. Raiders at Seattle (N)

Monday, December 18

Minnesota at San Francisco (N)

Saturday, December 23

San Diego at N.Y. Jets
Detroit at Tampa Bay
New England at Indianapolis (N)

Sunday, December 24

Cleveland at Jacksonville
Houston at Buffalo
Minnesota at Cincinnati
New Orleans at N.Y. Jets
Philadelphia at Chicago
Pittsburgh at Green Bay
San Francisco at Atlanta
Seattle at Kansas City
Carolina at Washington
Denver at L.A. Raiders
Miami at St. Louis

Monday, December 25

Dallas at Arizona (N)

Saturday, December 30

Sunday, December 31

NFC and AFC Wild Card Games

Saturday, January 6

Sunday, January 7

Divisional Playoffs

Sunday, January 14

NFC and AFC Championship Games

Sunday, January 28

Super Bowl XXX (Phoenix, AZ)

Sunday, February 4

NFC-AFC Pro Bowl (Honolulu, HI)

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

NFC PREDICTIONS

EAST

1. Dallas Cowboys
2. New York Giants
3. Philadelphia Eagles
4. Arizona Cardinals
5. Washington Redskins

CENTRAL

1. Chicago Bears
2. Minnesota Vikings
3. Green Bay Packers
4. Detroit Lions

WEST

1. San Francisco 49ers
2. New Orleans Saints
3. Atlanta Falcons
4. St. Louis Rams
5. Carolina Panthers

NFC Champion: Dallas Cowboys

Wild Cards: New York Giants, Minnesota Vikings, New Orleans Saints

by **DON PIERSON**

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

As attrition eats around the edges of the San Francisco 49ers and the Dallas Cowboys, the dominance of the NFC is threatened. They were the two great teams in the NFL last season, but greatness may be against the rules.

In only the third season of free agency, the effect already appears to be exactly the opposite of what some owners feared. They worried about the best teams attracting all the good players and ruining competitive balance. Indeed, when San Francisco signed ex-Falcon Deion Sanders last season, the 49ers appeared to be cornering the market. The 49ers also hired ex-Cowboy Ken Norton and added an entire collection of former defensive stars: ex-Saint Rickey Jackson, ex-Bear Richard Dent, ex-Redskin Charles Mann, and ex-Packer and ex-Eagle Tim Harris. They joined ex-Cardinal Tim McDonald.

But examine what happened. The contributions of Sanders and Norton notwithstanding, the 49ers won because of the "Young" factor. Steve Young was still throwing to Jerry Rice and young tackles Bryant Young and Dana Stubblefield were anchoring the defense. Most of the additional free agents went along for the ride.

Coach George Seifert would give up nearly all of those free agent defensive players to have kept running back Ricky Watters, who bolted for Philadelphia this season. Watters was closer to the team's nucleus than all the would-be and has-been pass rushers. Losing him is no way to establish a dynasty. Watters left because the stage was too crowded and the bankroll too limited for him in San Francisco. For the same reason, wide receiver Alvin Harper left the Cowboys for Tampa Bay. It is the nature of performers to want to work solo and earn top dollar, even in the context of the most obvious of team sports. So free agency is serving as the great leveling agent, preventing rather than promoting the coagulation of talent.

When Andre Rison leaves Atlanta, he doesn't go to San Francisco to share receptions with Jerry Rice or to Minnesota to play opposite Cris Carter. He goes to Cleveland as the lonesome virtuoso.

When Henry Thomas takes his pass-rushing prowess away from Minnesota, he doesn't join Charles Haley in Dallas to enhance the NFC's top sacking team. He goes to Detroit, where he is needed and therefore paid.

When Mel Gray leaves Detroit, he doesn't team up with Brian Mitchell in Washington to form the greatest kickoff-return team in history. He goes to Houston, the 25th-ranked kickoff-return team.

When Eric Allen quits Philadelphia, he doesn't join the Cowboys to bolster the league's No. 1 pass defense. He winds up in New Orleans to buoy the league's 25th-ranked pass defense.

When the Cowboys' James Washington leaves the No. 1 pass defense, he goes to Washington's No. 20 pass defense.

When Dexter Carter leaves the 49ers as their kick-return specialist, he winds up with the Jets because maybe they want him to do more than return kicks.

When Sam Mills leaves the Saints and their once-great linebacking crew, he signs with the Carolina Panthers and starts all over at age 36. When Herschel Walker looks for another place to park his suitcase, he doesn't go back to Dallas to be Emmitt Smith's caddy. Instead, he goes to New York, hoping to recapture some of the youth he left with the New Jersey Generals.

So it is that the 49ers and Cowboys find themselves sliding more toward the pack, scrambling to hold onto whatever "core" they think can keep them on top, knowing they can't have it all. Dallas owner Jerry Jones points to his nucleus and still believes he is ahead of San Francisco's nucleus. So far, the Cowboys remain the Team of the '90s and they may end up lay-

ing claim to the Team of the Decade by virtue of the two Super Bowls they already have won. The lesson of free agency in baseball was a different world champion nearly every season and greater competitive balance than ever before.

THE CHASE

So who can catch the 49ers and Cowboys? Probably the AFC first. With more teams on the verge of greatness than are found in the NFC, the AFC has a chance to break its 11-game losing streak in the Super Bowl. Miami, Pittsburgh, San Diego, and the Raiders all look strong, with New England and Cleveland making noise.



Emmitt Smith

In the NFC, the Bears are ready to emerge from the Central, which sent an unprecedented four teams to the playoffs last year. The Packers have slipped with the unfortunate loss of Sterling Sharpe. The Vikings pin their hopes on Warren Moon, soon to turn 39. The Lions are counting on Scott Mitchell, who may be too young. The Giants and Eagles look dangerous in the East, with Buddy Ryan's unpredictable Cardinals lurking. In the West, the Falcons and Saints continue their pursuit of the 49ers.

THE PLAYERS

The NFC has dominated because they have dominant players. Nobody matched Young's season of 1994, just as nobody matched Emmitt Smith's season of 1993.

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL



Troy Aikman

The most efficient passers came from the NFC: Young and the Packers' Brett Favre. But the AFC has more young guns with New England's Drew Bledsoe, Seattle's Rick Mirer, Cincinnati's Jeff Blake, and now transplanted Indianapolis Colt Craig Erickson. The best runner in the league was Detroit's Barry Sanders, but young Marshall Faulk of the Colts and Natrone Means of the Chargers are making names for themselves. The best receivers in the NFL were Minnesota's Carter, San Francisco's Rice, and

Atlanta's Terance Mathis, but New England's outstanding tight end, Ben Coates, looks like a star of the future.

THE NEWS

What's new in the NFC?

- Ray Rhodes. The Eagles' coach was hired by owner Jeffrey Lurie after recent stops in Green Bay and San Francisco, where Lurie noticed the two biggest names in free agency, Reggie White and Deion Sanders, both played for him.

- The St. Louis Rams. It sounds stranger than the Carolina Panthers or Jacksonville Jaguars. The Rams couldn't wait around for a Golden Anniversary in Los Angeles, which they really had abandoned when they moved to Anaheim. Now they will try to rekindle past glory as owner Georgia Frontiere tries not to remind Missourians of Cardinals owner Bill Bidwill. New coach Rich Brooks, a relative unknown from Oregon, will try to show them.

- The Carolina Panthers. They join up as the 29th franchise, ahead of the Jaguars and appropriately placed in the older conference. Their immediate purpose is to confuse geography teachers by residing in the NFC West.

- Receivers. Instead of musical quarterbacks, the trend in the NFC for 1995 is musical receivers. Sterling Sharpe started the domino effect when his injury left a void in Green Bay, forcing the Packers to scramble and trade for Miami's Mark Ingram. Alvin Harper turned down offers from several teams to go to Tampa Bay. Andre Rison left the NFC to go to Cleveland and the Falcons filled his spot with Browns running back Eric Metcalf, who will become an NFC receiver. The Cardinals, left out of the chase for Harper and Rison, traded for the Jets' Rob Moore. The Bears signed New England free agent Michael Timpson.

Not everybody switched. The Cowboys paid big bucks to retain Michael Irvin and Jay Novacek. The Vikings did likewise to keep Jake Reed. The

Redskins drafted the No. 1 collegiate receiver, Colorado's Michael Westbrook. Not to be outdone, the 49ers jumped a surprising 20 places in the draft to land UCLA's J.J. Stokes.

WHO'S ON THE SPOT?

Let's hear it for George Seifert, the most deserving coach who rarely wins any Coach of the Year consideration. In six years he has quietly compiled the best winning percentage in the history of the NFL. His career record of 84-24 (.777) is better than that of Vince Lombardi (104-36-6, .733), John Madden (112-39-7, .731), George Allen (120-54-5, .684), and Joe Gibbs (149-65, .683). Seifert also won his first 75 games faster than any coach in history.

Early last season, when the 49ers were struggling with injuries on their offensive line and lost to the Eagles 40-8, there were suggestions in the Bay Area that Seifert step down and make way for Jimmy Johnson. Seifert lost both coordinators after winning the Super Bowl. Offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan went to Denver and defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes went to Philadelphia. Both took 49er players with them.

If blame is necessary in 1995, Seifert will get it.



Steve Young

1995 ALL-NFC TEAM

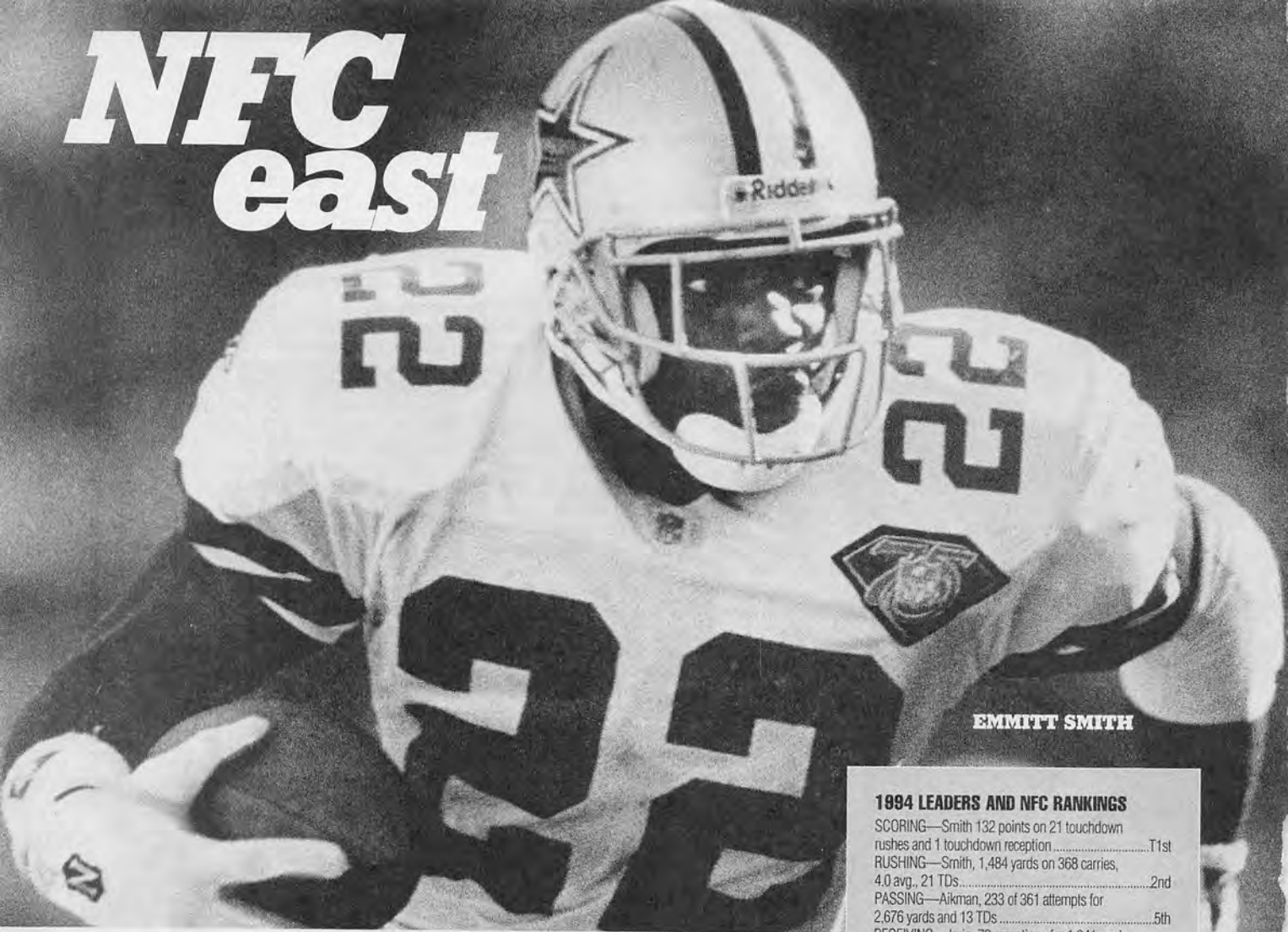
OFFENSE

QB Steve Young, San Francisco
RB Barry Sanders, Detroit
RB Emmitt Smith, Dallas
WR Jerry Rice, San Francisco
WR Michael Irvin, Dallas
TE Brent Jones, San Francisco
OC Kevin Glover, Detroit
OG Nate Newton, Dallas
OG Randall McDaniel, Minnesota
OT Willie Roaf, New Orleans
OT Harris Barton, San Francisco
PK Fuad Reveiz, Minnesota
KR Brian Mitchell, Washington

DEFENSE

DE Reggie White, Green Bay
DE Charles Haley, Dallas
DT Bryant Young, San Francisco
DT John Randle, Minnesota
OLB Ken Harvey, Washington
OLB Darrin Smith, Dallas
ILB Jack Del Rio, Minnesota
ILB Chris Spielman, Detroit
CB Donnell Woolford, Chicago
CB Aeneas Williams, Arizona
S Darren Woodson, Dallas
S Merton Hanks, San Francisco
P Dan Stryzinski, Atlanta

NFC east



EMMITT SMITH

DALLAS COWBOYS

Owner Jerry Jones still believes his Dallas Cowboys are the Team of the '90s, even as more starters fall off the bandwagon. He still has Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, and Michael Irvin, in case nobody noticed, and he managed to talk pass rusher Charles Haley out of his short-lived retirement.

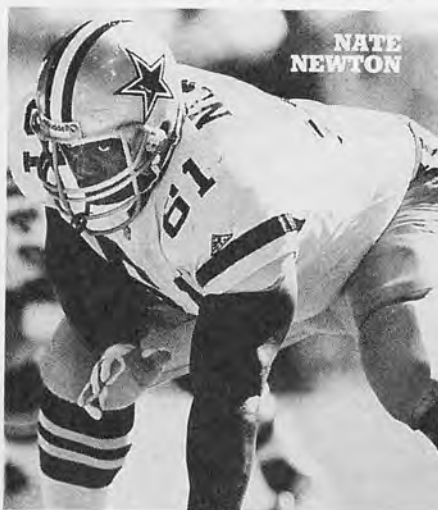
Alvin Harper and Mark Stepnoski are gone. So are Jim Jeffcoat and James Washington. Erik Williams continues to re-

habilitate from an auto accident and now faces other threats to his future in the form of sexual assault charges. It's enough to frighten the most faithful of Cowboy fans until they look around and wonder if anybody is gaining on them.

They re-signed Irvin and Jay Novacek, two receivers more integral to Aikman's success than Harper, who fled to the oblivion (and money) of Tampa Bay. They replaced Stepnoski with ancient (37) Ray Donaldson with the hope and expectation that a center was not the keystone to their Super Bowl success. Maybe they will find out differently if Stepnoski significantly improves a 2-14 Houston Oiler outfit by his deft snapping. Surely it will shock them if Harper turns around the perennially inept Buccaneers. They lost the reliable Jeffcoat, but they re-signed Tony Tolbert and wel-

comed back Haley, a fair exchange by any standard in these days of roster roulette.

Look around and the Cowboys' primary competition still looks to come from no other place this side of San Francisco, and Jones still fondly talks about his "core" even after last season's 0-2 record against the Super Bowl champions. "Our coaching staff and management really feel we wouldn't trade our core for the 49ers' core," Jones said. "We played them twice and we know we had eight turnovers and



NATE
NEWTON

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Smith 132 points on 21 touchdown rushes and 1 touchdown reception.....	T1st
RUSHING—Smith, 1,484 yards on 368 carries, 4.0 avg., 21 TDs.....	2nd
PASSING—Aikman, 233 of 361 attempts for 2,676 yards and 13 TDs.....	5th
RECEIVING—Irvin, 79 receptions for 1,241 yards, 15.7 avg., 6 TDs.....	8th
INTERCEPTIONS—Woodson, 5 for 140 yards, 28.0 average, 1 TD.....	T5th
Washington, 5 for 43 yards, 8.6 average.....	T5th
PUNTING—Jett, 70 punts, 41.9 avg., longest 58 yards.....	6th
PUNT RETURNS—Williams, 39 for 349 yards, 8.9 average.....	6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Williams, 43 for 1,148 yards, 26.7 average, 1 TD.....	3rd
SACKS—Haley, 12.5 sacks.....	3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	29	BUFFALO (N)
August	5	LOS ANGELES (N)
	12	vs. Buffalo at Toronto (N)
	21	At Denver (N)
	26	vs. Houston at San Antonio (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

		At N.Y. Giants (N)	10-15
September	4	DENVER	—
	10	At Minnesota (N)	—
	17	ARIZONA	38-3
October	1	At Washington	34-7
	8	GREEN BAY	42-31
	15	At San Diego	—
	22	OPEN DATE	—
	29	At Atlanta	—
November	6	PHILADELPHIA (N)	24-13
	12	SAN FRANCISCO	14-21
	19	At L.A. Raiders	—
	23	KANSAS CITY	—
December	3	WASHINGTON	31-7
	10	At Philadelphia	31-19
	17	N.Y. GIANTS	38-10
	25	At Arizona (N)	28-21

they had one. So to say we're convinced, we're not convinced."

If there is convincing required, it will come first on the offensive line, where Stepanoski and Williams leave big holes and 35-year-old Mark Tuinei and 33-year-old Nate Newton anchor the left side and second-year man Larry Allen keeps Williams' seat warm at right tackle. Donaldson played fairly well despite his age. A bigger gap might be at right guard, where Derek Kennard spread his width amply last season and where coach Barry Switzer hopes Ron Stone can make an impact. The instability has to concern Aikman, who appears to be one or two concussions away from a premature retirement. Nobody loves to stand in the pocket longer than Aikman and nobody is more effective at letting his passes go at the last second. He takes a lot of hits because of this, and endured them even while operating behind a healthy, younger group.

Losing Harper robs the Cowboys of a luxury big-play man, but not of the vital elements of the passing game. Harper was effective because Irvin and Smith were the go-to guys in an offense overflowing with talent. The Cowboys hope 49er reject Cory Fleming, who once played behind Harper at Tennessee, will blossom in his second season and do the same things Harper

The defense was the best in the league last season, just not good enough to overcome a 21-0 spot to the 49ers on turnovers. Haley's short-lived retirement plans may have been the best news of the offseason because he had the kind of year that indicates no dropoff whatsoever at age 31. With Haley and Tolbert coming off the corners, the Cowboys will be able to bring second-year man Shante Carver along slowly. He was no factor as a rookie and Switzer can only hope it was because he was overwhelmed. The development of



DARYL JOHNSTON

TROY AIKMAN



DALLAS COWBOYS

Barry Switzer, Head Coach
Dave Campo, Defensive Coordinator
Ernie Zampese, Offensive Coordinator
Hubbard Alexander, Receivers
Joe Avezzano, Special Teams
John Blake, Defensive Line
Joe Brodsky, Running Backs
Jim Eddy, Linebackers
Robert Ford, Tight Ends
Steve Hoffman, Kickers
Hudson Houck, Offensive Line
Mike Woicik, Strength & Conditioning
Mike Zimmer, Defensive Backs

Chad Hennings inside is a more pleasant note. He operated extremely well in the three-man rotation with starters Leon Lett and Russell Maryland and could even threaten Maryland's starting job this year. His 7.5 sacks were a half more than Maryland and Lett combined.

New defensive coordinator Dave Campo, promoted from within after Butch Davis left for the University of Miami, will rely on the same touchstone that worked so well for Davis and his predecessor Dave Wannstedt: speed. Although middle linebacker Robert Jones led the team in tackles, he remains a streak player other teams can attack. Outside linebacker Darrin Smith is ready for the Pro Bowl and outside backer Dixon Edwards finished third on the team in tackles. Godfrey Myles is an experienced backup.

The loss of free safety Washington to the Redskins and reserve safety and special-teams' fireman Kenneth Gant to the Buccaneers left the Cowboys short in the secondary, where strong safety Darren Woodson is a Pro Bowl performer. Nickel back Brock Marion may be ready to step in at free safety. Kevin Smith and Larry Brown anchor the corners with Clayton Holmes in reserve.

John Jett has the luxury of being a punter on a team that doesn't require his services often. Chris Boniol survived his rookie season as a place-kicker without being put on any real tight spots. Kevin Williams returns kickoffs better than punts.

COWBOYS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
34	Agee, Tommie	LB	6-0	235	32	Auburn
8	Aikman, Troy	QB	6-4	228	29	UCLA
73	Allen, Larry	T	6-3	315	24	Sonoma State
50	Barnes, Reggie	LB	6-1	238	26	Oklahoma
40	Bates, Bill	S	6-1	205	35	Tennessee
18	Boniol, Chris	K	5-11	159	24	La.Tech
24	Brown, Larry	CB	5-11	182	26	TCU
96	Carver, Shante	DE	6-5	240	25	Arizona State
44	Coleman, Lincoln	RB	6-1	249	26	Baylor
68	Cornish, Frank	G	6-4	287	28	UCLA
53	Donaldson, Ray	C	6-3	300	37	Georgia
58	Edwards, Dixon	LB	6-1	222	28	Michigan St.
46	Fishback, Joe	S	6-0	212	28	Carson-New.
82	Fleming, Corey	WR	6-1	207	25	Tennessee
89	Galbraith, Scott	TE	6-2	255	29	USC
17	Garrett, Jason	QB	6-2	195	30	Princeton
94	Haley, Charles	DE	6-5	250	31	JMU
69	Hegamin, George	T	6-7	355	23	N. C. State
70	Hellestrae, Dale	G	6-5	283	33	SMU
95	Hennings, Chad	DT	6-6	286	30	Air Force
47	Holmes, Clayton	CB	5-10	181	26	Carson-New.
88	Irvin, Michael	WR	6-2	205	30	Miami
19	Jett, John	P	6-0	184	27	East Carolina
48	Johnston, Daryl	RB	6-2	238	30	Syracuse
55	Jones, Robert	LB	6-2	237	26	East Carolina
60	Kennard, Derek	G	6-3	300	33	Nevada
78	Lett, Leon	DT	6-6	285	27	Emporia State
31	Marion, Brock	CB	5-11	189	26	Nevada
67	Maryland, Russell	DT	6-1	279	27	Miami
99	McCormack, Hurvin	DT	6-5	271	24	Indiana
98	Myles, Godfrey	LB	6-1	242	27	Florida
61	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	325	33	Florida A&M
84	Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	232	33	Wyoming
76	Reynolds, Jerry	T	6-6	315	26	UNLV
52	Schwartz, Jim	LB	6-2	232	26	Purdue
59	Smith, Darrin	LB	6-1	227	26	Miami
22	Smith, Emmitt	RB	5-9	209	27	Florida
26	Smith, Kevin	CB	5-11	180	26	Texas A&M
65	Stone, Ron	T	6-5	306	24	Boston Col.
30	Studstill, Darren	S	6-1	186	25	West Virginia
32	Thomas, Blair	RB	5-10	202	28	Penn State
92	Tolbert, Tony	DE	6-6	263	28	UTEP
71	Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	305	36	Hawaii
79	Williams, Erik	T	6-6	324	27	Central St.
45	Williams, Germaine	RB	5-10	230	25	LSU
85	Williams, Kevin	WR	5-9	192	25	Miami
28	Woodson, Darren	S	6-1	215	27	Arizona State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Williams, Sherman	RB	5-7	189	Alabama
2	Watkins, Kendall	TE	6-1	305	Mississippi State
2	Hannah, Shane	OG	6-5	345	Michigan State
3	Williams, Charlie	CB	6-0	187	Bowling Green
4	Bjornson, Eric	WR	6-4	215	Washington
4	Brice, Alundis	CB	5-11	178	Mississippi
4	Harden, Linc	LB	6-3	238	Oklahoma State
5	Hervey, Edward	WR	6-3	180	USC
5	Howard, Dana	LB	6-0	244	Illinois
7	Sturgis, Oscar	DE	6-5	284	North Carolina

did. He has the size and jumping ability, and Harper wasn't the fastest guy in the world either. If Fleming isn't ready, the Cowboys have Kevin Williams in the wings, not to mention the underappreciated third-down target Novacek.

Daryl Johnston is back at fullback to pave the way for Smith and catch more passes (44 last year) than unsuspecting rivals might believe. Smith is coming off what he would consider an off year, 1,484 yards, his lowest total since his rookie year. He did score a league-high 22 touchdowns. Depth is a problem with the Cowboys, as it is everywhere in the league, but Blair Thomas isn't the worst caddy Smith could have.

NEW YORK GIANTS

The Giants enter the season as the 28th-ranked offense despite a respectable 9-7 record. One of the two statistics must be misleading, but the Giants are coming off one of the strangest years in their history.

In the middle of three-game and six-game winning streaks, they lost seven in a row, prompting coach Dan Reeves to point out: "If it weren't for that seven-game losing streak, we'd be undefeated."

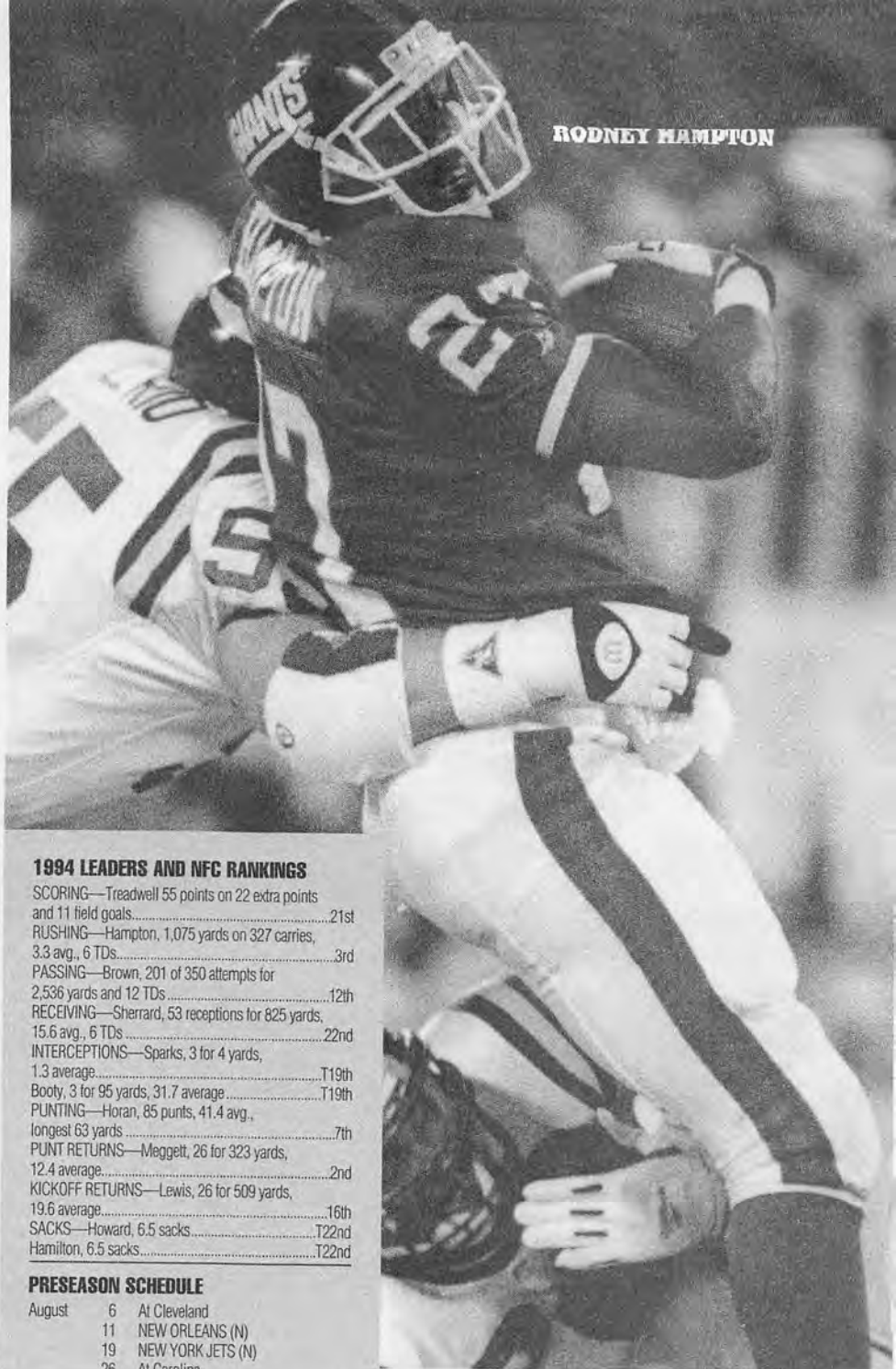
Unbowed by the slide, they return with their usual solid cast, including young quarterback Dave Brown, none the worse for wear. With No. 1 draft choice Tyrone Wheatley expected to provide instant impact, the Giants look toward a bright future. Herschel Walker returns to the stadium where his pro football career began with the New Jersey Generals of the United States Football League. His task is to make Giants' fans forget Dave Meggett, who ran off to New England to rejoin reclusive ex-Giants coach Bill Parcells.



TYRONE WHEATLEY

Herschel-to-the-rescue is a pattern that has played out several times in Mr. Walker's run through football history. When he won the Heisman Trophy and left Georgia to join the USFL, he was the manchild who would carry the banner for a new league. When the league folded, he would chase away Tony Dorsett and restore the Dallas Cowboys to America's Team. The Minnesota Vikings thought Herschel was the one player who would get them into the Super Bowl. To get him, they gave away enough draft choices to get the Cowboys into a Super Bowl. Washed up in purple, Walker rejuvenated his career in Philadelphia, providing three years of workmanlike duty before the Eagles deemed him expendable. Now, he joins the Giants at age 33, and Reeves thinks he can help in more ways than the versatile Meggett.

Walker is projected as the starter at full-



RODNEY HAMPTON

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Treadwell, 55 points on 22 extra points and 11 field goals.....	21st
RUSHING—Hampton, 1,075 yards on 327 carries, 3.3 avg., 6 TDs.....	3rd
PASSING—Brown, 201 of 350 attempts for 2,536 yards and 12 TDs.....	12th
RECEIVING—Sherrard, 53 receptions for 825 yards, 15.6 avg., 6 TDs.....	22nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Sparks, 3 for 4 yards, 1.3 average.....	T19th
Booby, 3 for 95 yards, 31.7 average.....	T19th
PUNTING—Horan, 85 punts, 41.4 avg., longest 63 yards.....	7th
PUNT RETURNS—Meggett, 26 for 323 yards, 12.4 average.....	2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Lewis, 26 for 509 yards, 19.6 average.....	16th
SACKS—Howard, 6.5 sacks.....	T22nd
Hamilton, 6.5 sacks.....	T22nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	6	At Cleveland
	11	NEW ORLEANS (N)
	19	NEW YORK JETS (N)
	26	At Carolina

1995 SCHEDULE

September	4	DALLAS (N)	15-10
	10	At Kansas City	—
	17	At Green Bay	—
	24	NEW ORLEANS	22-27
October	1	At San Francisco	—
	8	ARIZONA	9-10
	15	PHILADELPHIA	28-23
	22	OPEN DATE	—
	29	At Washington (N)	21-19
November	5	At Seattle	—
	12	L.A. RAIDERS	—
	19	At Philadelphia	16-13
	26	CHICAGO	—
	30	At Arizona (N)	20-17
December	10	WASHINGTON	31-23
	17	At Dallas	10-38
	23	SAN DIEGO	—

back ahead of blocker Kenyon Rasheed and next to either Wheatley or Rodney Hampton, whose stellar New York career may be drawing to a close after four consecutive 1,000-yard seasons. Wheatley has the kind of talent that shouldn't require much development. If he can't provide a contribution similar to what Marshall Faulk accomplished in Indianapolis last year, it will be a disappointment. Brown will benefit by whatever boost Wheatley can provide for a running game that slipped from first to 10th despite Hampton's 1,000 yards. Wheatley and Walker should combine to make it a more threatening running game.

Brown finished strong after some anxious moments when he gave way to Kent Graham. He threw for over 2,500 yards, with

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

more interceptions (16) than touchdowns (12), but his average gain per completion (7.25 yards) was fourth-best in the NFC. In consecutive games against Cleveland and Cincinnati in December, Brown directed the Giants to fourth-quarter comeback victories. His poise and popularity among the tough New York press and fans can only serve him well. He has the intelligence and the arm to succeed and a capable surrounding cast.

If last year's No. 1 draft choice, Thomas Lewis, can step up at wide receiver, it will be a huge plus. He flashed signs of ability in returning kicks until a November knee injury sidelined him. Mike Sherrard finally got through a season relatively unscathed and enjoyed his best production (53 catches and 6 touchdowns) in nine years. Is it too much to hope for two years in a row? Chris Calloway also posted career highs in his first season as a starter and is backed up by veteran Arthur Marshall. The Giants have an excellent 1-2 punch at tight end with blocker Howard Cross and H-back Aaron Pierce. Cross is more than a blocker with 31 catches and Pierce chipped in with 20 receptions, both enjoying career seasons.

The foundation of the great Giant teams, the offensive line, got some attention in the draft with the selection of Montana's Scott Gragg and Nebraska's Rob Zatechka. Both will bolster a front of left tackle John Elliott, left guard William Roberts, center Brian Williams, right guard Lance Smith, and right

play right tackle, with right end Michael Strahan the only holdover in the same spot on the front. Stacey Dillard, Chad Bratzke, Chris Maumalanga, and Coleman Rudolph are reserves.

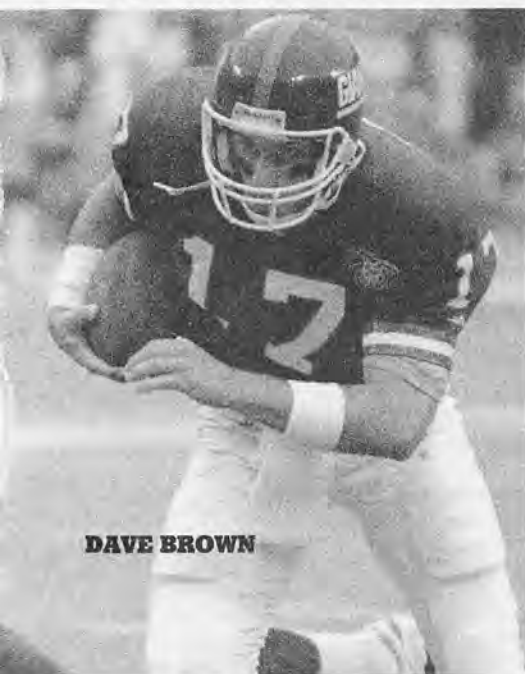
The linebacking alignment also is being revamped with Carlton Bailey gone and Mike Croel signed from Denver, another of Reeves's charges following him East. If Croel can regain his 10-sack rookie form of 1991 and fit in on the weak side, it would allow Michael Brooks to move inside and better roam the field. Backup Jesse Armstead appears ready to challenge for a starting job at outside linebacker, too, regardless of Croel's status. Brooks was outstanding again last year, making 118

with Jason Sehorn challenging and Willie Beamon in reserve.

The loss of Meggett hurts the special teams on kick returns, but the addition of Douglass helps the coverage. Brad Daluiso is an adequate place-kicker whose big leg is invaluable on kickoffs. Punter Mike Horan is a good placement kicker but the only one in the league to have two attempts blocked. Walker, Lewis, and Arthur Marshall will try to replace Meggett's great kick-return ability.



HERSCHEL WALKER



DAVE BROWN

NEW YORK GIANTS

Dan Reeves, Head Coach
George Henshaw, Offensive Coordinator
Mike Nolan, Defensive Coordinator
Don Blackmon, Linebackers
Dave Brazil, Defensive Quality Control
James Daniel, Tight Ends
Steve DeBerg, Quarterbacks
Joe DeCamillis, Special Teams
Kerry Goode, Asst. Strength & Conditioning
Earl Leggett, Defensive Line
Pete Managurian, Offensive Line
Al Miller, Strength & Conditioning
Dick Rehbein, Wide Receivers
George Sefcik, Running Backs
Zaven Yarlalan, Defensive Backs

tackles and serving as the vocal leader of the defense. The other outside starter is Corey Miller. Backups included Corey Widmer and Marcus Buckley, joined by fourth-rounder Ben Talley of Tennessee.

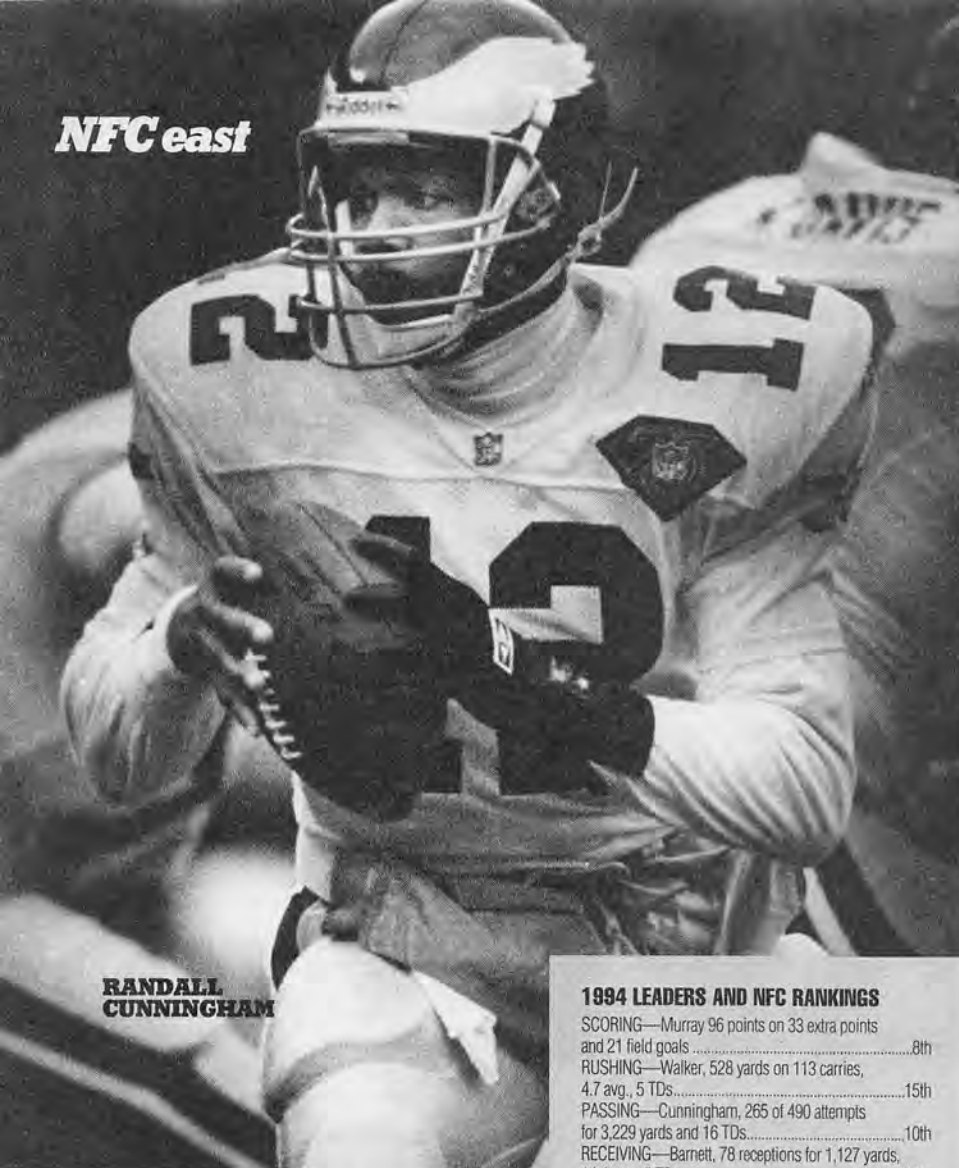
Changes in the secondary also loom with the addition of free safety Vencie Glenn from the Vikings. That allows Jesse Campbell to move from free safety to strong safety, with former Bear Maurice Douglass in reserve. Third-rounder Rodney Young and fifth-rounder Roderick Mullen will provide depth. The cornerbacks are solid with the quick emergence of Thomas Randolph on the right side as a rookie. He looks like a future star. Phillippi Sparks is the left corner,

GIANTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
	Agnew, Ray	DE	6-3	272	28	N. C. State
98	Armstead, Jesse	LB	6-1	238	25	Miami
21	Beamon, Willie	CB	5-11	170	26	Northern Iowa
78	Bishop, Greg	T	6-5	298	25	Pacific
41	Booty, John	S	6-0	180	30	TCU
77	Bratzke, Chad	DE	6-4	262	24	E. Kentucky
94	Brooks, Michael	LB	6-1	235	32	LSU
17	Brown, Dave	QB	6-5	215	26	Duke
55	Buckley, Marcus	LB	6-3	235	25	Texas A&M
80	Calloway, Chris	WR	5-10	185	28	Michigan
37	Campbell, Jesse	S	6-1	215	27	N. C. State
51	Croel, Mike	LB	6-3	231	27	Nebraska
87	Cross, Howard	TE	6-5	245	28	Alabama
3	Daluiso, Brad	K	6-2	207	28	UCLA
	Davis, Mitch	LB	6-2	238	24	Georgia
62	Davis, Scott	G	6-3	289	26	Iowa
71	Dillard, Stacey	NT	6-5	288	27	Oklahoma
82	Douglas, Omar	WR	5-10	170	24	Minnesota
	Douglass, Maurice	S	5-11	202	32	Kentucky
34	Downs, Gary	RB	6-0	212	25	N. C. State
20	Elias, Keith	RB	5-9	191	24	Princeton
76	Elliott, John	T	6-7	305	31	Michigan
25	Glenn, Vencie	S	6-0	201	31	Indiana State
10	Graham, Kent	QB	6-5	220	27	Ohio State
75	Hamilton, Keith	DE	6-6	280	25	Pittsburgh
27	Hampton, Rodney	RB	5-11	215	27	Georgia
	Harris, Robert	DE	6-4	290	27	Southern
2	Horan, Mike	P	5-11	190	37	Long Beach St.
85	Kozlowski, Brian	TE	6-3	250	25	Connecticut
81	Lewis, Thomas	WR	6-1	185	24	Indiana
83	Marshall, Arthur	WR	5-11	174	27	Georgia
99	Maumalanga, Chris	DT	6-2	288	24	Kansas
57	Miller, Corey	LB	6-2	255	27	So. Carolina
84	Pierce, Aaron	TE	6-5	246	26	Washington
23	Randolph, Thomas	CB	5-9	176	25	Kansas State
44	Rasheed, Kenyon	RB	5-10	245	25	Oklahoma
63	Reese, Darren	G	6-4	285	25	Ohio U.
72	Riesenberg, Doug	T	6-5	275	30	California
66	Roberts, William	G	6-5	280	33	Ohio State
91	Rudolph, Coleman	DE	6-4	270	25	Georgia Tech
67	Schreiber, Adam	C	6-4	288	34	Texas
31	Sehorn, Jason	S	6-2	212	25	USC
88	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	33	UCLA
58	Shufelt, Pete	LB	6-2	241	26	UTEP
61	Smith, Lance	G	6-3	285	33	LSU
22	Sparks, Phillippi	CB	5-11	186	27	Arizona State
92	Strahan, Michael	DE	6-4	270	24	Texas So.
18	Treadwell, David	K	6-1	180	31	Clemson
34	Walker, Herschel	RB	6-1	225	33	Georgia
8	White, Stan	QB	6-2	202	24	Auburn
90	Widmer, Corey	LB	6-3	276	27	Montana State
59	Williams, Brian	C	6-5	300	30	Minnesota
26	Williams, Jarvis	S	5-11	200	31	Florida
68	Winrow, Jason	G	6-4	321	25	Ohio State
29	Woolen, Tito	S	6-0	181	24	NE Louisiana

DRAFTIES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Wheatley, Tyrone	RB	6-0	232	Michigan
2	Gragg, Scott	OT	6-8	315	Montana
3	Young, Rodney	S	6-1	210	LSU
4	Zatechka, Rob	OG	6-4	307	Nebraska
4	Talley, Ben	LB	6-3	240	Tennessee
5	Mullen, Roderick	S	6-1	200	Grambling
6	Duff, Jamal	DE	6-7	260	San Diego State
6	Way, Charles	RB	6-1	236	Virginia
7	Diehl, Bryne	P	6-1	215	Alabama



RANDALL CUNNINGHAM

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

When Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie hired Ray Rhodes to coach, he pointed to his record as a recruiter, signaling the advent of a new way of thinking in a new system. When Rhodes was defensive coordinator of the Packers, Reggie White left the Eagles to sign with Green Bay. When Rhodes was defensive coordinator of the 49ers, Deion Sanders left the Falcons to sign in San Francisco. The two biggest names in the first two years of NFL free agency both went to play for Ray Rhodes.

So he gets to Philadelphia and loses all-pro cornerback Eric Allen to New Orleans right off the bat, not the kind of debut a new coach wants to make. Rhodes soon recovered, signing running back Ricky Watters from the world champions. One of the game's long-ball threats receiving or running, Watters brings a dimension lacking in Philadelphia since the glory days of Wilbert Montgomery, and Montgomery wasn't nearly as effective a receiver as Watters. Whether Watters adapts to a more prominent role than the complementary character

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Murray 96 points on 33 extra points and 21 field goals	8th
RUSHING—Walker, 528 yards on 113 carries, 4.7 avg., 5 TDs	15th
PASSING—Cunningham, 265 of 490 attempts for 3,229 yards and 16 TDs	10th
RECEIVING—Barnett, 78 receptions for 1,127 yards, 14.4 avg., 5 TDs	19th
INTERCEPTIONS—Jackson, 6 for 86 yards, 14.3 average, 1 TD	T3rd
PUNTING—Barker, 66 punts, 40.8 avg., longest 67 yards	10th
PUNT RETURNS—Sydney, 40 for 381 yards, 9.5 average	5th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Walker, 21 for 581 yards, 27.7 average, 1 TD	2nd
SACKS—Fuller, 10.5 sacks	T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	ATLANTA (N)
	12	NY Jets at Jackson MS (N)
	17	NEW ENGLAND (N)
	24	At Pittsburgh (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	TAMPA BAY	.....
	10	At Arizona (N)	.....6-12
	17	SAN DIEGO	.....
	24	At L.A. Raiders	.....
October	1	At New Orleans	.....
	8	WASHINGTON	.....21-17
	15	At N.Y. Giants	.....23-28
	22	OPEN DATE	.....
	29	ST. LOUIS	.....
November	6	At Dallas (N)	.....13-24
	12	DENVER (N)	.....
	19	N.Y. GIANTS	.....13-16
	26	At Washington	.....31-29
December	3	At Seattle	.....
	10	DALLAS	.....19-31
	17	ARIZONA	.....17-7
	24	At Chicago	.....30-22

he played with the 49ers is a question Rhodes is happy to see answered. The exciting running of little Charlie Garner last year showed how quarterback Randall Cunningham's game can be enhanced by such a change of pace, but Garner couldn't hold up. Watters can.

But it will take more than Watters to wash away the residue of the seven-game losing streak Rhodes inherits. Under Rich Kotite, the Eagles were flying along at 7-2, including a 40-8 crushing of the 49ers, when suddenly they hit the wall. They ended up the first team in NFL history to start 7-2 and finish with a losing record. Nobody could figure it out. The Eagles even finished the year ranked fourth on overall defense, a statistic defying their record but one that didn't fool Rhodes. He made defense his total focus in the draft and came away happy with the results. He also gained a new nickname: "Trader Ray."

After trading up to land Boston College pass rusher Mike Mamula, Rhodes shook off criticism that he paid too much, switching places in the first round and giving Tampa Bay two seconds for a third. "When you want a guy, you go after him," Rhodes said. He followed up by trading receiver Victor Bailey to Kansas City to get Notre Dame defensive back Bobby Taylor in the second round. Taylor has the ability to replace Allen and the size to play safety. Criticized for a lackluster senior year, Taylor should respond to a coach who knows defensive backs as well as anyone.

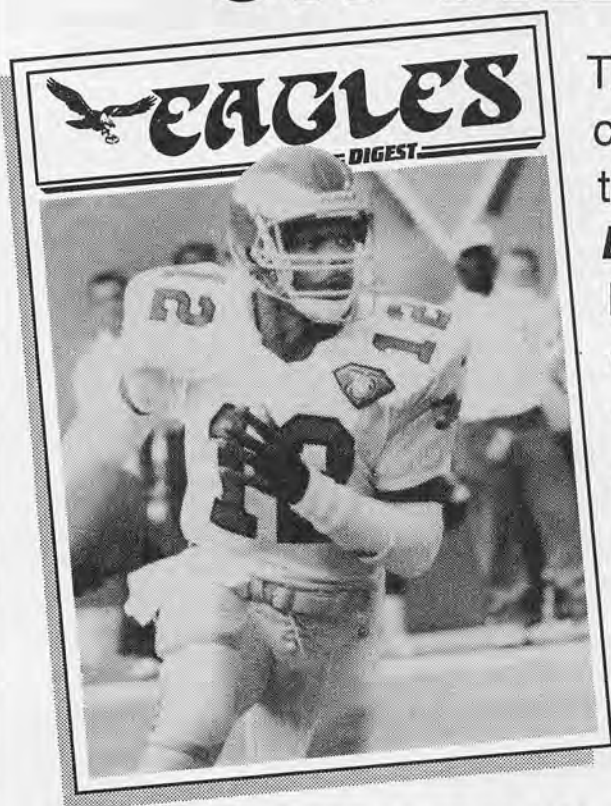
Another trade for a fourth-round pick landed California quarterback Dave Barr, who could turn into the most interesting move of all. Cunningham is 32 and in the second half of last season didn't look anything like the confident, effective passer he was in the first half. By the end of the losing streak, he was throwing balls up for grabs and finished with his worst passer rating (74.4) since he first became a starter in 1986. After the Eagles lost backup Bubby Brister to the Jets and failed in an effort to trade for Packer backup Mark Brunell, Rhodes needed a quarterback. Barr, hampered by injury at Cal, is a big-time prospect. The Eagles also signed ex-Lion and ex-Cowboy Rodney Peete.

Watters was not the only addition to a revamped backfield. New England fullback Kevin Turner, an excellent receiver, will join Cunningham's arsenal. Watters and Turner, along with Garner, should make Eagles fans forget Herschel Walker, who had been inexplicably forgotten by Kotite and his staff during last season. The guy became the first NFL player ever to record a run, a reception, and a kick return for more than 90 yards, yet he carried the ball more than nine times in only three games. Rhodes added two Mississippi State backs, Fred McCrary and Kevin Bouie, for depth.

Wide receiver Fred Barnett is a legitimate all-pro contender and Cunningham's No. 1 target, complemented nicely by Calvin Williams. The two will be joined by rookie Chris T. Jones of Miami. The Eagles picked up blocking tight end Reggie Johnson from the Packers to replace Mark Bavaro.

The Eagles' big, young offensive line took its share of the blame for the turn-

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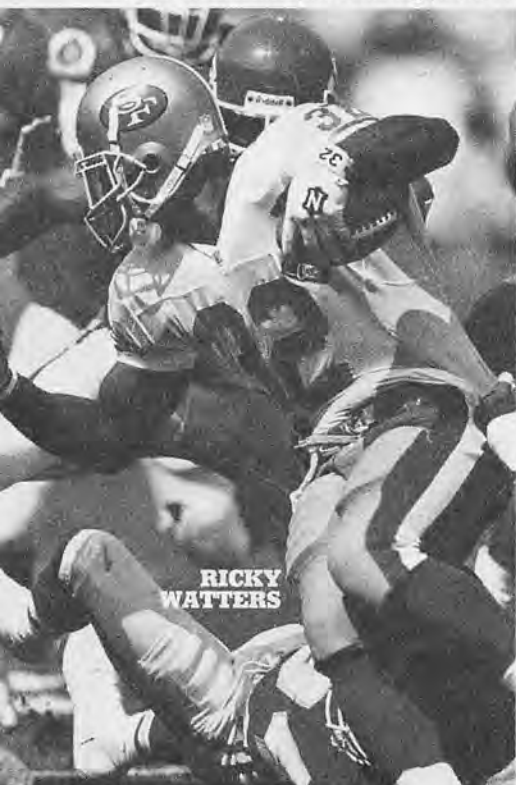
around last season and will undergo some retooling. Right tackle Broderick Thompson was replaced by Tom McHale and Rhodes drafted Barrett Brooks from Kansas State in the second round to compete with ex-Packer pickup Joe Sims. Left guard Antone Davis also lost his job to Joe Panos, who will again compete in his second year with ex-Redskin pickup Raleigh McKenzie. Last year, Panos played alongside another rookie, left tackle Bernard Williams, whose inconsistency was overshadowed by his huge promise. Two rookies on the backside is not what a veteran quarterback likes to see. Center David Alexander is the veteran of the unit, with budding star Lester Holmes at right guard.

On defense, Rhodes's specialty, Mamula is advertised as a pass-rushing phenom-

surgery and free-agent status and backup Britt Hager gone to Denver. Another ex-49er, Bill Romanowski, may have to move inside and out of position. Kurt Gouveia was added from the Redskins. Ex-Saint Vaughn Johnson is a possibility depending on health. Rightside backer William Thomas appears solid coming off six sacks, one interception, and three forced fumbles besides 126 tackles, the second-highest on the team.

Replacing Allen is Rhodes's top priority in the secondary because he was left with tiny Mark McMillian and backups Otis Smith, Derrick Frazier, and Al Jackson before he added Taylor. Safeties Greg Jackson and Michael Zordich are stalwarts in the backfield, with Jackson leading the team with six interceptions and Zordich leading the team with 130 tackles. Eric Zomalt and Marvin Goodwin are backups starting their second season.

The Eagles are looking to upgrade their special teams after signing veteran Eddie



RICKY WATTERS

enon so fast and quick and agile that he will instantly cure whatever ails a team still mourning the loss of Reggie White, Seth Joyner, and Clyde Simmons. Surely Mamula will complement ex-Oiler William Fuller, who had eight sacks in the first seven games last year and then 1.5 sacks the rest of the way. Even though the Eagles finished second in the NFC to Dallas in sacks, the pass rush was not a consistently feared dimension. Tackle Andy Harmon proved to be the MVP on the defense with nine sacks and the outstanding number of 100 tackles. But the rest of the line was made up of castoffs William Perry, Burt Grossman, and Greg Townsend. Rhodes brought another castoff, ex-Buc Rhett Hall, along with him from San Francisco, where Hall played well in limited action and could provide a boost. It would be a bonus if Tommy Jeter or Leonard Renfro came through and Rhodes expects third-round find Greg Jefferson of Central Florida to emerge as a factor.

Linebacker is a problem, with middle man Byron Evans in limbo following knee

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Ray Rhodes, Head Coach
Jon Gruden, Offensive Coordinator
Emmitt Thomas, Defensive Coordinator
Bill Callahan, Offensive Line
Dick Jamieson, Running Backs
Gerald Carr, Wide Receivers
Ted Williams, Tight Ends
Mike Trgovac, Defensive Line
Joe Vitt, Linebackers
Danny Smith, Special Teams
Mike Wolf, Strength & Conditioning
Juan Castillo, Offensive Assistant
Chuck Knox Jr., Defensive Assistant



CHARLIE GARNER

Murray to rescue their place-kicking and losing punters Bryan Barker and Mitch Berger. Backup receiver Jeff Sydnor averaged 9.5 yards on punt returns, a top 10 performance, and backup running back Vaughn Hebron returned kickoffs along with Walker, who was more effective.

EAGLES VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
72	Alexander, David	C	6-3	275	31	Tulsa
24	Barlow, Corey	CB	5-9	182	25	Auburn
86	Barnett, Fred	WR	6-0	199	30	Arkansas St.
84	Bavaro, Mark	TE	6-4	245	33	Notre Dame
64	Brown, Curt	DT	6-5	260	26	No. Carolina
71	Chalenski, Mike	DE	6-4	260	26	UCLA
	Conklin, Cary	QB	6-4	215	28	Washington
12	Cunningham, Randall	QB	6-4	205	32	UNLV
78	Davis, Antone	G	6-4	325	29	Tennessee
56	Evans, Byron	LB	6-2	235	32	Arizona
11	Fiedler, Jay	QB	6-1	215	24	Dartmouth
96	Flores, Mike	DE	6-3	256	29	Louisville
8	Ford, Bernard	WR	5-9	183	30	Central Fla.
23	Frazier, Derrick	CB	5-10	178	26	Texas A&M
95	Fuller, William	DE	6-3	274	34	No. Carolina
25	Garner, Charlie	RB	5-9	181	24	Tennessee
22	Goodwin, Marvin	S	6-0	199	23	UCLA
54	Gouveia, Kurt	LB	6-1	233	31	BYU
69	Grossman, Burt	DE	6-4	275	29	Pittsburgh
96	Gunn, Mark	DT	6-5	279	27	Pittsburgh
	Hall, Rhett	DE	6-2	270	27	California
91	Harmon, Andy	DT	6-4	265	27	Kent State
45	Hebron, Vaughn	RB	5-8	196	25	Virginia Tech
	Henderson, Jerome	CB	5-10	189	26	Clemson
39	Henesey, Brian	RB	5-10	215	26	Bucknell
73	Holmes, Lester	G	6-3	301	26	Jackson State
66	Hudson, John	C	6-2	275	28	Auburn
47	Jackson, Greg	S	6-1	200	29	LSU
98	Jeter, Tommy	DT	6-5	282	26	Texas
87	Johnson, Maurice	TE	6-2	243	29	Temple
82	Johnson, Reggie	TE	6-2	256	28	Florida State
52	Johnson, Vaughn	LB	6-3	240	34	N.C. State
	Lewis, Ron	WR	5-11	189	28	Florida State
68	McHale, Tom	T	6-4	290	33	Cornell
	McKenzie, Raleigh	G	6-2	277	33	Tennessee
29	McMillian, Mark	CB	5-7	162	26	Alabama
3	Murray, Eddie	K	5-11	195	39	Tulane
58	Oden, Derrick	LB	5-11	230	25	Alabama
63	Panos, Joe	G	6-2	296	25	Wisconsin
9	Pete, Rodney	QB	6-0	207	30	USC
90	Perry, William	DT	6-2	335	33	Clemson
42	Reid, Mike	S	6-1	218	25	N.C. State
94	Renfro, Leonard	DT	6-2	291	26	Colorado
53	Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-4	231	30	Boston Col.
55	Rose, Ken	LB	6-1	215	34	UNLV
75	Selby, Rob	T	6-3	286	28	Auburn
68	Sims, Joe	T	6-3	310	27	Nebraska
	Stubbs, Daniel	DE	6-4	264	31	Miami
85	Sydnor, Jeff	WR	5-6	170	26	Hawaii
51	Thomas, William	LB	6-2	218	27	Texas A&M
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6-3	270	34	TCU
34	Turner, Kevin	RB	6-0	224	27	Alabama
32	Watters, Ricky	RB	6-1	212	27	Notre Dame
	Wilburn, Barry	CB	6-3	186	32	Mississippi
14	Wilkins, Jeff	K	6-1	180	24	Youngstown
74	Williams, Bernard	T	6-8	317	23	Georgia
89	Williams, Calvin	WR	5-11	190	29	Purdue
57	Woodard, Marc	LB	6-0	234	26	Mississippi St.
27	Zomalt, Eric	S	5-11	197	23	California
36	Zordich, Michael	S	6-1	201	32	Penn State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Mamula, Mike	DE	6-5	248	Boston College
2	Taylor, Bobby	CB	6-3	202	Notre Dame
2	Brooks, Barrett	OT	6-4	305	Kansas State
3	Jefferson, Greg	DE	6-3	256	Central Florida
3	Jones, Chris T.	WR	6-4	210	Miami (FL)
4	Barr, Dave	QB	6-3	209	California
6	McCrory, Fred	RB	6-0	210	Mississippi State
7	Boule, Kevin	RB	6-0	224	Mississippi State
7	Smother, Howard	OT	6-3	285	Bethune-Cookman

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Buddy Ryan didn't like his offense, so he got rid of it. Like most offenses, it offended him, and his first reaction was to squash it. He jettisoned quarterback Steve Beuerlein, traded Ricky Proehl, said good-bye to

Randal Hill, insulted Luis Sharpe, and fired tight end Derek Ware and replaced him with a former defensive line-

man. When Ryan arrived in Arizona, he thought offense was the only thing he had going for him. It went, all right, sliding from 8th to 22nd and leaving his beloved defense in the desert without a paddle.

"I overestimated our offensive players off last year's stats," he said.

The defense was pretty good, as usual, but the result was an 8-8 record, one game better than Joe Bugel's team the previous year and several games behind Ryan's



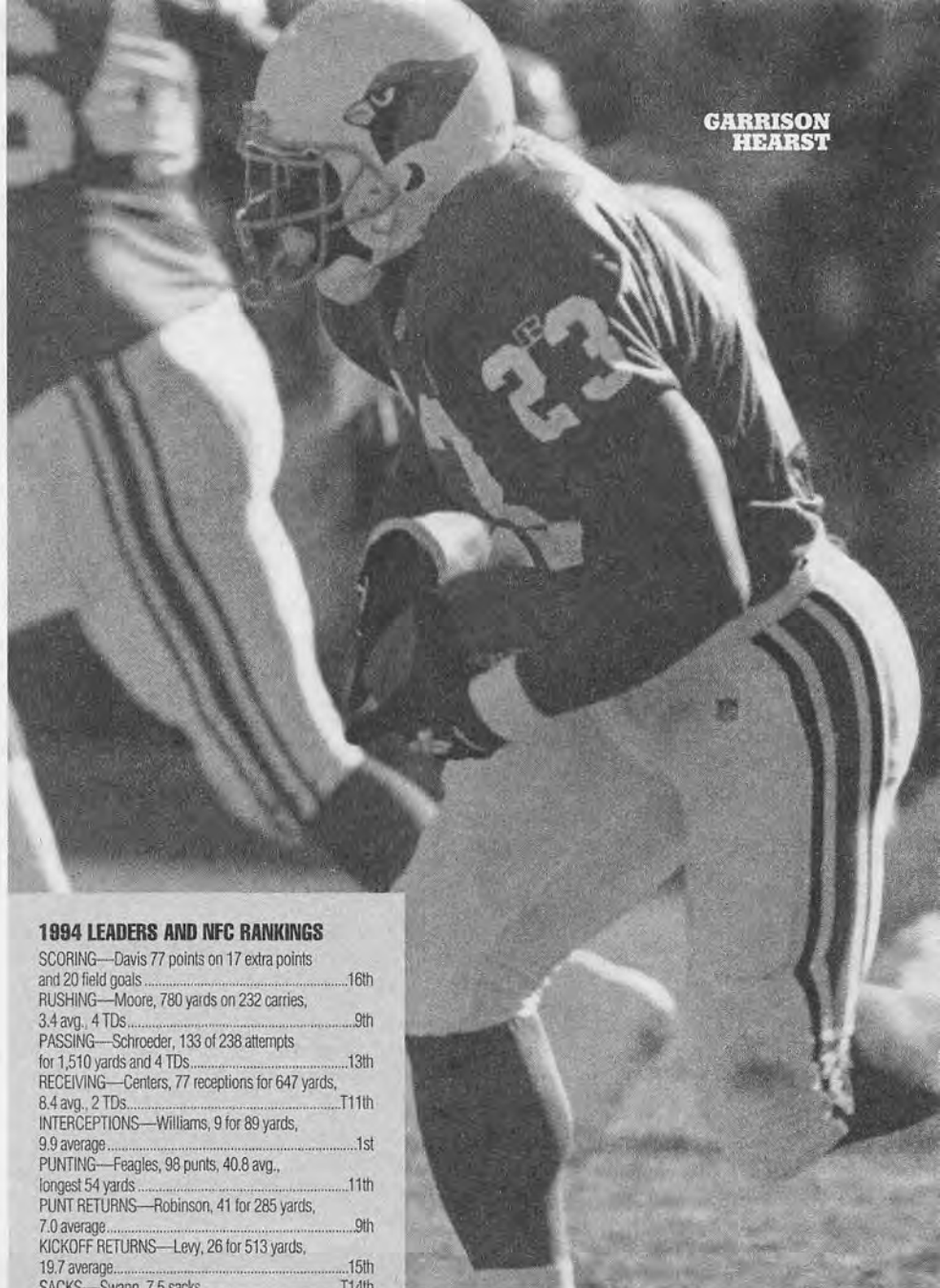
ROB MOORE

boasts. The reaction was predictable. Center Ed Cunningham is the only regular offensive regular from last season slated to start this time around at the same position.

The upheaval has not curtailed Ryan's confidence. After hiring 37-year-old David Krieg to be his quarterback, Ryan said: "In the last half of the season, there was no other quarterback, including the guy in San Francisco, who played better football than Dave Krieg." After he drafted New Mexico quarterback Stoney Case in the third round, higher than most projections, Ryan said: "He plays the position better than any quarterback in the country that I've seen." After he lost out on bids to add a big-time receiver such as Alvin Harper or Andre Rison through free agency, Ryan traded his leading runner, Ron Moore, and his No. 1 and No. 4 draft choices to the Jets for their leading receiver, Rob Moore, and said: "We got the best pick in the first round."

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL

GARRISON HEARST



1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Davis 77 points on 17 extra points and 20 field goals.....	16th
RUSHING—Moore, 780 yards on 232 carries, 3.4 avg., 4 TDs.....	9th
PASSING—Schroeder, 133 of 238 attempts for 1,510 yards and 4 TDs.....	13th
RECEIVING—Centers, 77 receptions for 647 yards, 8.4 avg., 2 TDs.....	T11th
INTERCEPTIONS—Williams, 9 for 89 yards, 9.9 average.....	1st
PUNTING—Feagles, 98 punts, 40.8 avg., longest 54 yards.....	11th
PUNT RETURNS—Robinson, 41 for 285 yards, 7.0 average.....	9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Levy, 26 for 513 yards, 19.7 average.....	15th
SACKS—Swann, 7.5 sacks.....	T14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	At Houston (N)
	11	KANSAS CITY (N)
	20	At Chicago (N)
	25	CLEVELAND (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	At Washington.....	19-16
	10	PHILADELPHIA (N).....	12-6
	17	At Detroit.....	—
	24	At Dallas.....	3-38
October	1	KANSAS CITY.....	—
	8	At N.Y. Giants.....	10-9
	15	WASHINGTON.....	17-15
	22	OPEN DATE.....	—
	29	SEATTLE.....	—
November	5	At Denver.....	—
	12	MINNESOTA.....	17-7
	19	At Carolina.....	—
	26	ATLANTA.....	6-10
	30	N.Y. GIANTS (N).....	17-20
December	9	At San Diego.....	—
	17	At Philadelphia.....	7-17
	25	DALLAS (N).....	21-28

Krieg is the key to the revamping on offense. After serving as Joe Montana's caddy in Kansas City for a year, Krieg took his suitcase to Detroit and rescued Scott Mitchell, who was floundering before he got hurt. Starting the final seven games, Krieg took the Lions on a 5-2 run and a playoff berth. He threw 14 touchdown passes and only 3 interceptions during his stretch. He finished just 12 attempts short of qualifying for the official passer ratings. Had he qualified, he would have ranked second in the league only to Young. Throughout his career, Krieg has been known as a streak passer. When he's hot, watch out. When he's not, will Ryan remain patient? Ex-Saint Mike Buck is expected to be the backup, with Case in the wings.

Moore caught 78 passes for the Jets last year and provides the big, fast, reliable target the Cardinals have missed. He will remind Krieg of Detroit's Herman Moore. Since Ryan got rid of his three top wide receivers from last season—Proehl, Hill, and

Gary Clark—Moore could not be expected to replace the entire trio. So Ryan spent his first draft choice in the second round on another one, Auburn's Frank Sanders, who is also a big, physical target and is being penciled in as an instant starter opposite Moore. In addition, Ryan switched running back Chuck Levy to wide receiver and drafted Tennessee's Billy Williams as another backup. Anthony Edwards is the only holdover, and he didn't catch a pass last year. At tight end, Ryan fired Ware the week of the season finale and went with Chad Fann, with Terry Samuels in reserve. But this year, Ryan projects a defensive lineman from the practice squad, Wendall Gaines, will be his starter.

After starting last season in Ryan's doghouse, running back Garrison Hearst showed enough in the stretch to convince Ryan he is healthy and ready to assume the

he wouldn't be missed. At left guard, ex-Steeler Duval Love was lured to replace Ernest Dye, the only lineman besides Cunningham to start every game in '94. At right guard, Anthony Redmon finished up the year when Coleman went to tackle. Right tackle Rick Cunningham, who lost his job to Joe Wolf, went to Minnesota and will be replaced by free agent Larry Tharpe from Detroit. The Cardinals paid him \$1 million even though he has never started. Wolf, Todd Jones, and rookies Lance Scott and Mark Askin are the backups.

Ryan's defense will remain virtually intact, although he couldn't resist drafting three defensive backs to provide much-needed depth. Tackle Eric Swann remains the focal point of the line. He is Ryan's Arizona version of Reggie White in Philadelphia and Dan Hampton in Chicago. Bernard Wilson is the other tackle, with Michael Bankston and Clyde Simmons at the ends, backed by Eric England, Bryan Hooks, Sebastian Barrie, and rookie Chad Eaton.

Last year's No. 1 draft choice, Jamir Miller, played well enough at the end of the year to take Wilber Marshall's job at right linebacker, with Seth Joyner on the left side and Pro Bowl candidate Eric Hill in the middle. They are backed primarily by Terry Irving and Garth Jax.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Buddy Ryan, Head Coach
Dave Atkins, Offensive Coordinator
Ronnie Jones, Defensive Coordinator
Matt Cavanaugh, Quarterbacks
Ted Cottrell, Linebackers
George Martinez, Quality Control
Guy Morriss, Offensive Line Assistant
Dan Neal, Offensive Line
Ted Plumb, Wide Receiver/Tight Ends
Al Roberts, Special Teams
Bob Rogucki, Strength & Conditioning
Rex Ryan, Defensive Line
Robert Ryan, Defensive Backs

Aeneas Williams finally got his due as a Pro Bowl cornerback after tying for the league lead with nine interceptions. Former Seahawk Patrick Hunter will replace James Williams at the other corner, with Lorenzo Lynch at strong safety and ex-corer Brent Alexander ahead of last year's free safety, Terry Hoage. The rookies who will push for time are Anthony Bridges, Cedric Davis, and Tito Paul.

Greg Davis is an excellent place-kicker and nobody had more practice punting last year than Jeff Feagles. Newcomer Walter Dunson should take over the kick returns with Levy in the wings.

CARDINALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
46	Alexander, Brent	CB	5-10	184	25	Tenn. State
63	Bankston, Michael	DE	6-3	280	26	Sam Houston
73	Barrie, Sebastian	DT	6-2	280	26	Liberty
78	Brown, Chad	DE	6-7	265	24	Mississippi
16	Buck, Mike	QB	6-3	227	29	Maine
37	Centers, Larry	RB	6-0	215	28	St. F. Austin
62	Coleman, Ben	T	6-6	335	25	Wake Forest
79	Cunningham, Ed	C	6-3	285	26	Washington
5	Davis, Greg	K	6-0	205	30	The Citadel
93	Dunbar, Karl	DE	6-4	275	29	LSU
65	Dye, Ernest	T	6-6	325	24	S. Carolina
83	Edwards, Anthony	WR	5-9	190	30	N. M. High.
92	England, Eric	DE	6-2	283	25	Texas A&M
86	Fann, Chad	TE	6-3	250	26	Florida A&M
10	Feagles, Jeff	P	6-1	205	30	Miami
85	Hardy, Darryl	LB	6-2	220	27	Tennessee
31	Harris, Odie	S	6-0	190	30	S. Houston St.
23	Hearst, Garrison	RB	5-11	215	25	Georgia
22	Hicks, Mark	RB	5-7	196	30	Kentucky
58	Hill, Eric	LB	6-2	255	29	LSU
34	Hoage, Terry	S	6-2	201	34	Georgia
97	Hooks, Bryan	DE	6-3	286	25	Arizona State
27	Hunter, Patrick	CB	5-11	186	31	Nevada-Reno
56	Irving, Terry	LB	6-0	224	24	McNeese St.
53	Jax, Garth	LB	6-3	250	32	Florida State
63	Jones, Todd	T	6-3	295	28	Henderson St.
59	Joyner, Seth	LB	6-2	235	31	UTEP
57	Kirk, Randy	LB	6-2	231	31	S. Diego State
18	Knox, Kevin	WR	6-3	194	25	Florida State
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	202	37	Millon
4	Levy, Chuck	RB	6-0	197	24	Arizona
67	Love, Duval	G	6-3	288	33	UCLA
29	Lynch, Lorenzo	S	5-11	200	33	Sacram. St.
55	Marshall, Wilber	LB	6-1	240	34	Florida
9	McMahon, Jim	QB	6-1	195	36	BYU
50	Merritt, David	LB	6-1	237	24	N. C. State
95	Miller, Jamir	LB	6-4	242	22	UCLA
85	Moore, Rob	WR	6-3	205	27	Syracuse
60	Redmon, Anthony	G	6-4	308	25	Auburn
80	Reeves, Bryan	WR	5-11	185	25	Nevada
82	Robinson, Patrick	WR	5-8	176	26	Tennessee St.
89	Samuels, Terry	TE	6-2	254	25	Kentucky
11	Schroeder, Jay	QB	6-4	215	35	UCLA
67	Sharpe, Luis	T	6-5	280	36	UCLA
96	Simmons, Clyde	DE	6-6	280	31	W. Carolina
98	Swann, Eric	DT	6-4	295	25	None
69	Vander Poel, Mark	T	6-7	303	28	Colorado
20	Waters, Andre	S	5-11	200	34	Cheyney State
35	Williams, Aeneas	CB	5-10	190	28	Southern
94	Wilson, Bernard	DT	6-2	295	25	Tennessee St.
68	Wolf, Joe	T	6-6	296	29	Boston Col.

DRAFTIES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Sanders, Frank	WR	6-2	200	Auburn
3	Case, Stoney	QB	6-2	205	New Mexico
5	Davis, Cedric	CB	5-9	170	Tennessee State
5	Scott, Lance	C	6-3	278	Utah
5	Paul, Tito	S	6-0	190	Ohio State
6	Bridges, Anthony	CB	5-9	180	North Texas
7	Williams, Billy	WR	5-11	169	Tennessee
7	Leasy, Wesley	LB	6-2	234	Mississippi St.
7	Eaton, Chad	DT	6-4	292	Washington State

SETH JOYNER

WILBER MARSHALL

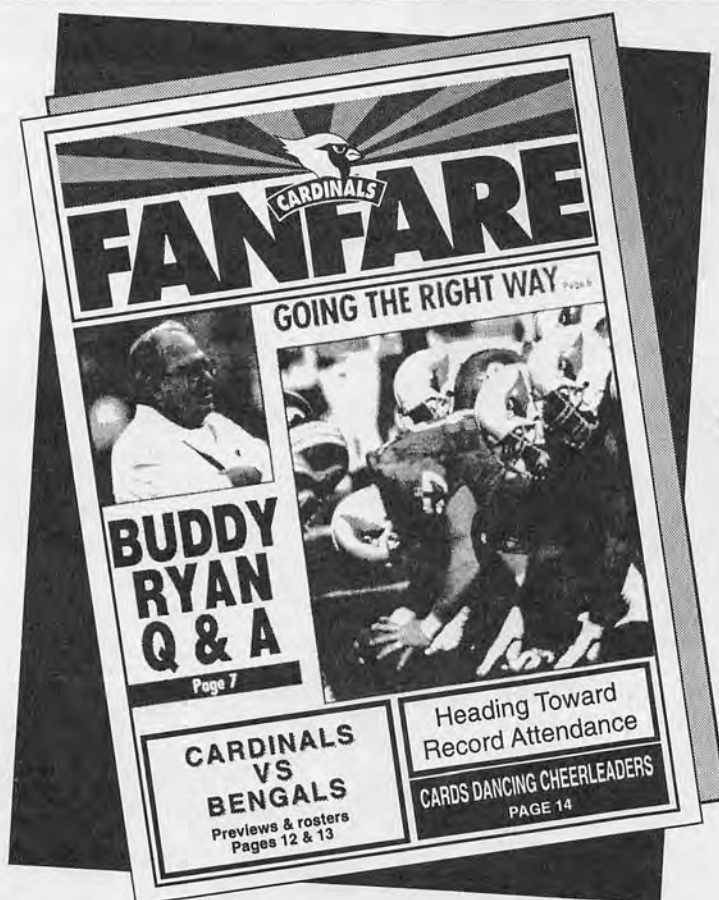
ERIC SWANN

role for which he was drafted in 1993. Although Ron Moore started every game a year ago and gained 780 yards, Hearst is a much more dangerous threat. He is backed by Mark Higgs. Fullback Larry Centers was the team's most reliable offensive performer, leading the Cardinals in receptions for the second year and also leading in touchdowns even though he didn't start.

By contrast to the rest of the offense, the line looks settled. Ben Coleman, who spent most of the year at right guard, finished at left tackle and will replace the venerable Sharpe, who got hurt and was told by Ryan

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HEATH SHULER

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Norv Turner, who earned his keep as an offensive coach with the Rams and Cowboys, drafted a quarterback when he got to the Redskins. This year, he drafted a receiver for the quarterback. Then he drafted a center for the quarterback. But after finishing 26th on defense, Turner knows he has to turn his attention to the side of the ball that matters

most. If the Redskins are to stop their skid, let alone come anywhere close to the lofty expectations of flamboyant and demanding owner Jack Kent Cooke, they better be able to stop somebody.

So they signed linebackers Marv Patton from Buffalo and Rod Stephens from Seattle. They got safeties Stanley Richard from San Diego and James Washington from Dallas. Whether that's enough is debatable, because the Redskins also got rid of reliable linebackers Andre Collins and Kurt Gouveia and came up fairly empty on a defensive line that contributed to a 27th ranking against the run.

In drafting Colorado receiver Michael Westbrook with the fourth pick in the first round, the Redskins are trying to rewrite history by undoing history. Only three drafts ago, they used the fourth pick overall to select Michigan's Heisman Trophy-winning receiver, Desmond Howard. Two months before taking Westbrook, they gave up on Howard when they lost him to Jacksonville in the expansion draft.



1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lohmiller 90 points on 30 extra points and 20 field goals	12th
RUSHING—Ervins, 650 yards on 185 carries, 3.5 avg., 3 TDs	11th
PASSING—Shuler, 120 of 265 attempts for 1,658 yards and 10 TDs	16th
RECEIVING—Ellard, 74 receptions for 1,397 yards, 18.9 avg., 6 TDs	13th
INTERCEPTIONS—Collins, 4 for 150 yards, 37.5 average, 2 TDs	T12th
PUNTING—Roby, 82 punts, 44.4 avg., longest 65 yards	2nd
PUNT RETURNS—Mitchell, 32 for 452 yards, 14.1 average	1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Mitchell, 58 for 1,478 yards, 25.5 average	4th
SACKS—Harvey, 13.5 sacks	T1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	At Kansas City (N)
	12	vs. Houston at Knoxville, TN (N)
	19	At Miami (N)
	24	At Pittsburgh (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	ARIZONA	16-19
	10	L.A. RAIDERS	-
	17	At Denver	-
	24	At Tampa Bay	21-26
October	1	DALLAS	7-34
	8	At Philadelphia	17-21
	15	At Arizona	15-17
	22	DETROIT	-
	29	N.Y. GIANTS (N)	19-21
November	5	At Kansas City	-
	12	OPEN DATE	-
	19	SEATTLE	7-28
	26	PHILADELPHIA	29-31
December	3	At Dallas	7-31
	10	At N.Y. Giants	23-31
	17	At St. Louis	24-21
	24	CAROLINA	-

1994 SCORES

So the Redskins are rebuilding their rebuilding, with only scant realistic hope of meeting their owner's challenge. If they are to have a chance, it looks like Turner will have to outscore teams with miraculous play-calling. He doesn't even have a big-time running back to rely upon when all else breaks down. This was a decision the Redskins made with all eyes open. With the fourth pick, they had their choice of Tyrone Wheatley or Rashaan Salaam or any running back except Ki-Jana Carter, but opted for Westbrook. He is the big target Turner used so well in Dallas when Troy Aikman was firing strikes to Michael Irvin and Alvin Harper. Opposite the ageless Henry Ellard, Westbrook will give second-year quarterback Heath Shuler a much bigger and supposedly more reliable receiver than Howard.

Shuler was tossed into the fray earlier than a rookie quarterback should be last season, with mixed results. After surviving an early challenge from seventh-round



BRIAN MITCHELL

teammate Gus Frerotte, Shuler settled down and finished stronger than he started, although the statistics placed him at the bottom of all qualifying passers in the league. He completed only 45 percent of his throws, also a league-low. But neither Turner nor Shuler appears rattled by this baptism of fire. If Shuler shows progress before he gets shell-shocked and bombarded by media criticism, he will have a leg up on Howard, who was run out of town by the time he could do anything right.

Ellard is coming off a remarkable year for a 34-year-old veteran of the wars. He caught 74 passes for 1,397 yards and his 18.9-yard average was the highest in the league for anyone with more than 50 catches. With Tydus Winans also averaging 18.1 yards as a rookie and Howard averaging 18.2, the Redskins were the only team in football with their three top wideouts averaging more

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2 pts. to rusher or 1 pt. ea. to passer and receiver

INTERCEPTION: 6 pts. | **SAFETY:** 2 pts.

SACK: 6 pts. | **FUMBLE RECOVERY:** 6 pts.

(Points are awarded regardless of player's position)

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Q01 D. Marino	6M	Q01 B. Sanders	6M	Q01 C. Carter	6M	Q01 M. Anderson	6M	Q01 D. Sanders	6M	Q01 K. Greene	6M
Q02 S. Young	6M	Q02 E. Smith	6M	Q02 M. Irvin	6M	Q02 J. Carney	6M	Q02 R. Woodson	6M	Q02 K. Harvey	6M
Q03 D. Bledsoe	5M	Q03 J. Bettis	5M	Q03 J. Rice	6M	Q03 F. Reveiz	6M	Q03 R. Buchanan	5M	Q03 J. Randle	6M
Q04 J. Elway	5M	Q04 M. Faulk	5M	Q04 H. Moore	5M	Q04 M. Bahr	5M	Q04 A. Williams	5M	Q04 B. Smith	5M
Q05 B. Favre	5M	Q05 C. Warren	5M	Q05 A. Rison	5M	Q05 S. Christie	5M	Q05 M. Hanks	4M	Q05 R. White	5M
Q06 T. Aikman	4M	Q06 R. Watters	5M	Q06 T. Brown	4M	Q06 J. Elam	5M	Q06 G. Jackson	4M	Q06 C. Haley	4M
Q07 R. Cunningham	4M	Q07 B. Foster	4M	Q07 B. Coates	4M	Q07 C. Boniol	4M	Q07 R. Massey	4M	Q07 D. Stubblefield	4M
Q08 J. Kelly	4M	Q08 R. Hampton	4M	Q08 C. Pickens	4M	Q08 D. Brien	4M	Q08 T. McDaniel	4M	Q08 D. Thomas	4M
Q09 W. Moon	4M	Q09 N. Means	4M	Q09 T. Maltis	4M	Q09 J. Hanson	4M	Q09 E. Turner	4M	Q09 S. Gilbert	3M
Q10 B. Esiason	3M	Q10 T. Thomas	4M	Q10 A. Reed	4M	Q10 C. Jacke	4M	Q10 J. Washington	4M	Q10 C. Kennedy	3M
Q11 J. Hostetler	3M	Q11 T. Allen	3M	Q11 Sh. Sharpe	4M	Q11 D. Pelfrey	4M	Q11 D. Woolford	4M	Q11 G. Lloyd	3M
Q12 S. Humphries	3M	Q12 G. Brown	3M	Q12 W. Anderson	3M	Q12 M. Stover	4M	Q12 E. Allen	3M	Q12 C. Mims	3M
Q13 J. Everett	2M	Q13 R. Cobb	3M	Q13 F. Barnett	3M	Q13 P. Stoyanovich	4M	Q13 L. V. Glenn	3M	Q13 L. O'Neal	3M
Q14 J. George	2M	Q14 W. Floyd	3M	Q14 J.J. Birden	3M	Q14 G. Anderson	3M	Q14 V. Glenn	3M	Q14 N. Smith	3M
Q15 R. Mirer	2M	Q15 L. Hoad	3M	Q15 B. Blades	3M	Q15 D. Biasucci	3M	Q15 S. Richard	3M	Q15 T. Tolbert	3M
Q16 S. Mitchell	2M	Q16 J. Johnson	3M	Q16 Q. Early	3M	Q16 L. Elliot	3M	Q16 M. Stewart	3M	Q16 J. Geathers	3M
Q17 N. O'Donnell	2M	Q17 B. Morris	3M	Q17 E. Green	3M	Q17 E. Murray	3M	Q17 T. Vincent	3M	Q17 J. Jeffcoat	2M
Q18 W. Testaverde	2M	Q18 E. Rhett	3M	Q18 M. Haynes	3M	Q18 A. Del Greco	2M	Q18 L. Washington	3M	Q18 J. Lageman	2M
Q19 S. Beuerlein	1M	Q19 L. Russell	3M	Q19 B. Jones	3M	Q19 J. Jaeger	2M	Q19 C. Dishman	2M	Q19 C. McGlockton	2M
Q20 S. Bono	1M	Q20 L. Tillman	3M	Q20 A. Miller	3M	Q20 J. Kasay	2M	Q20 J. Hasty	2M	Q20 R. Turnbull	2M
Q21 T. Diller	1M	Q21 H. Williams	3M	Q21 R. Moore	3M	Q21 K. Butler	1M	Q21 N. Odomes	2M	Q21 W. Fuller	1M
Q22 S. McNair	1M	Q22 M. Allen	2M	Q22 J. Novacek	3M	Q22 N. Johnson	1M	Q22 E. Robinson	2M	Q22 S. Jones	1M
Q23 F. Reich	1M	Q23 M. Bates	2M	Q23 G. Clark	2M	Q23 C. Lohmiller	1M	Q23 M. Pope	1M	Q23 B. Paup	1M
Q24 H. Shuler	1M	Q24 E. Bennett	2M	Q24 H. Ellard	2M	Q24 T. Zendejas	1M	Q24 G. Teague	1M	Q24 J. Seau	1M
QB Total _____M		RB Total _____M		REC Total _____M		K Total _____M		DB Total _____M		DL Total _____M	

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than 18 yards a catch. This indicates that Turner and Shuler aren't interested in padding completion percentages with a short dink-and-dunk attack. They go for it. Leslie Shepherd and Olanda Truitt are backups. James Jenkins and Frank Wycheck are the tight ends, but they combined for only 15 catches, so Turner has yet to discover his version of Jay Novacek.

At running back, Ricky Ervins emerged as the feature back over the disappointing Reggie Brooks, but neither developed into a long-term answer. Ervins averaged 3.5 yards and Brooks only 3.0, with kick-return specialist Brian Mitchell serving as the club's best runner/receiver and third-down threat. Mitchell keeps lobbying for a shot as the everyday workhorse, but he appears too valuable as Mr. Versatile. Cedric Smith and Marc Logan are the fullbacks.

Up front, the Redskins have mostly veterans to make Shuler comfortable, but a lack of depth prompted the drafting of center Cory Raymer in the second round, a surprise considering so many more obvious needs. John Gesek remains the No. 1 center, with Ray Brown and Tre Johnson at the guards and

replace Collins at right linebacker, the Redskins added Darrick Brownlow and Matt Vanderbeek from the Cowboys to join Erick Anderson as reserve linebackers.

Up front, the Redskins are weak. Left end Tony Woods led the linemen with 4.5 sacks and right end Sterling Palmer had only one. Tackles Tim Johnson and Marc Boutte are average, with Bobby Wilson still not justifying his first-round status of 1991. Backups are Dexter Nottage, Lamar Mills, and fifth-rounder Rich Owens, the only rookie the Redskins drafted in an area of dire need.

Darrell Green is 35 and still the club's best cornerback, not to mention one of the best in the league. Without a pass rush,

rookie Matt Turk filling in, with an eye on the waiver wire. Chip Lohmiller is the place-kicker, with Mitchell pushing for status as the league's best combination punt- and kickoff-return man. Only ex-Lion Mel Gray, now an Oiler, ranked as high in both categories, and Mitchell is seven years younger.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Norv Turner, Head Coach
 Ron Lynn, Defensive Coordinator
 Mike Haluchak, Linebackers
 Ray Horton, Secondary Assistant
 Bob Karmelowicz, Defensive Line
 Tom Hayes, Defensive Backs
 Cam Cameron, Quarterbacks
 Russ Grimm, Tight Ends
 Jim Hanifan, Offensive Line
 Bobby Jackson, Running Backs
 Terry Robiskie, Wide Receivers
 Pete Rodriguez, Special Teams
 Dan Riley, Strength Coach
 Jason Arapoff, Conditioning Director



HENRY ELLARD



MICHAEL WESTBROOK

Jim Lachey and Ed Simmons at the tackles. Rookies provide most of the backup help.

The Redskins passed up every defensive player available in the draft, but so did the expansion Panthers and Jaguars. The Redskins had only two problems on defense last year: the run and the pass. They were the only defense to finish 20th or lower against both the run and the pass. They were outscored by nearly 100 points, joining Tampa Bay, Cincinnati, and Houston in that ignominious category.

Linebacker Ken Harvey led the NFC in sacks, with 13.5, and the rest of the Redskins combined managed only 14.5. As soon as teams started figuring it out, they blocked Harvey and took their chances. Left linebacker Harvey justified his high salary as a free-agent acquisition from the Cardinals, but Turner obviously felt the linebacking needed attention before the defensive line. Besides adding middle linebacker Stephens to replace Gouveia and Patton to

Green's speed is needed more than ever, even if he has slowed a step. Young Tom Carter still needs seasoning entering his third year. Alan Grant and three rookies—Barry Dillard, Scott Turner, and Darryl Pounds—are reserve corners. Washington and Richard provide an instant upgrade at the safety spots. Super Bowl starters the past two seasons, they will raise the confidence of the entire defense. Although neither strong safety Washington nor free safety Richard was pursued heavily by their own teams, both are capable of big plays.

The Redskins lost venerable punter Reggie Roby to the Buccaneers and have

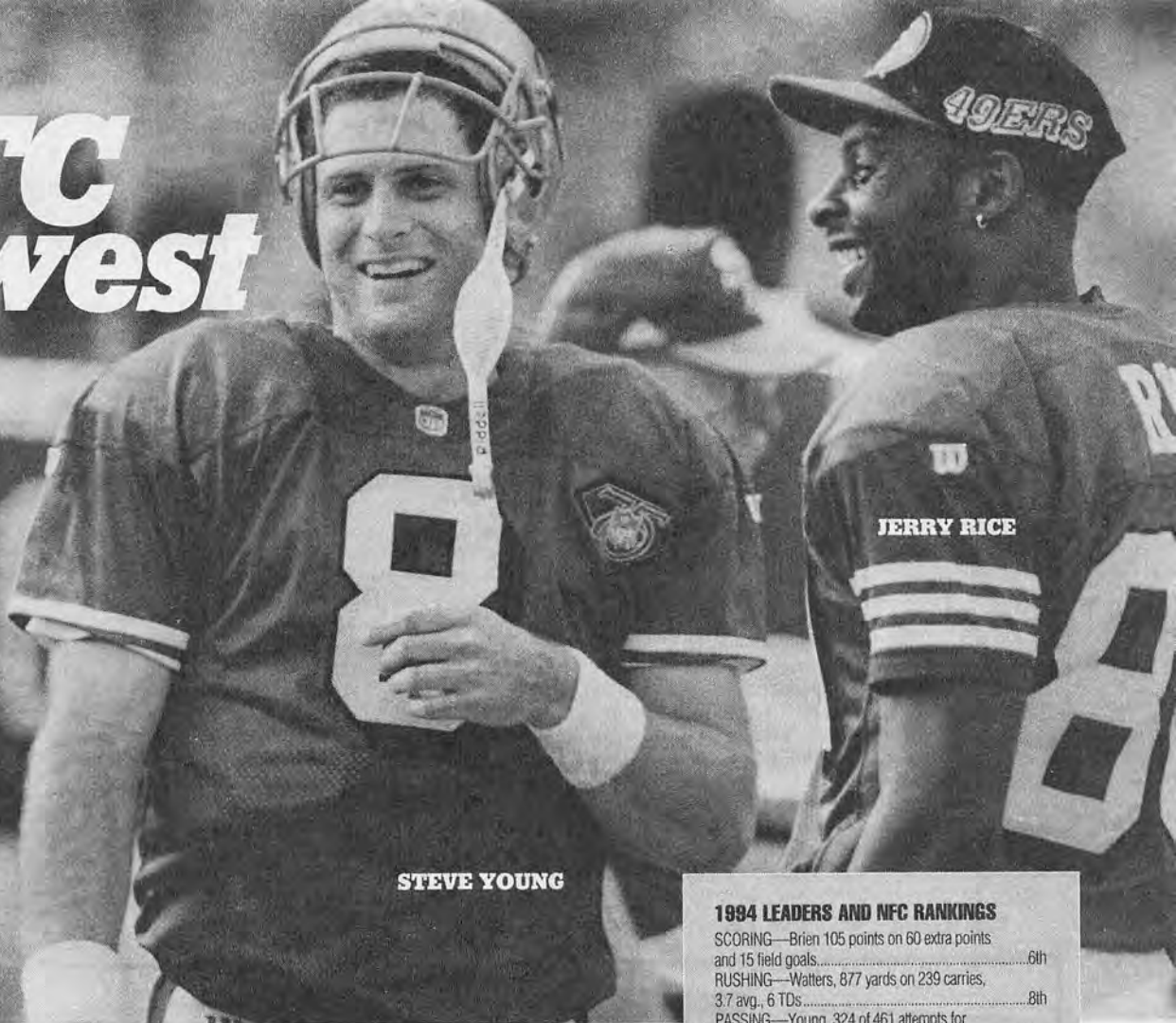
REDSKINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
95	Abrams, Anthony	DE	6-4	298	25	Clark Atlanta
56	Anderson, Erick	LB	6-1	235	27	Michigan
34	Bayless, Martin	S	6-2	219	33	Bow. Green
87	Bell, Coleman	TE	6-2	232	26	Miami
36	Bell, William	RB	5-11	203	24	Georgia Tech
93	Boutte, Marc	DT	6-4	298	26	LSU
40	Brooks, Reggie	RB	5-8	202	25	Notre Dame
67	Brown, Ray	G	6-5	312	33	Arkansas St.
50	Brownlow, Darrick	LB	6-0	235	27	Illinois
25	Carter, Tom	CB	5-11	181	23	Notre Dame
51	Coleman, Monte	LB	6-2	242	38	Central Ark.
91	Collins, Shane	DE	6-3	267	27	Arizona State
85	Ellard, Henry	WR	5-11	182	34	Fresno State
32	Ervins, Ricky	RB	5-7	195	27	USC
12	Frerotte, Gus	QB	6-2	221	24	Tulsa
75	Gesek, John	G	6-5	282	33	Sacramento St.
	Graf, Rick	LB	6-5	244	31	Wisconsin
26	Grant, Alan	CB	5-10	187	29	Stanford
28	Green, Darrell	CB	5-8	170	35	Texas A&I
10	Green, Trent	QB	6-3	211	25	Indiana
57	Harvey, Ken	LB	6-3	230	31	California
95	Hochertz, Martin	DE	6-5	269	27	S. Illinois
88	Jenkins, James	TE	6-2	241	28	Rutgers
47	Johnson, A.J.	CB	5-8	175	29	SW Texas St.
78	Johnson, Tim	DT	6-3	275	31	Penn State
77	Johnson, Tre	T	6-2	315	24	Temple
62	Kalanivulu, Alai	G	6-3	303	24	Oregon State
79	Lachey, Jim	T	6-6	294	33	Ohio State
43	Logan, Marc	RB	6-0	212	31	Kentucky
64	Matich, Trevor	TE	6-4	297	34	BYU
20	Mays, Alvoid	CB	5-9	172	29	West Virginia
72	Mills, Lamar	DT	6-5	270	25	Indiana
30	Mitchell, Brian	RB	5-10	203	27	SW Louisiana
38	Morrison, Darryl	S	5-11	185	25	Arizona
90	Newman, Patrick	WR	5-11	189	27	Utah State
92	Nottage, Dexter	DE	6-4	273	25	Florida A&M
97	Palmer, Sterling	DE	6-5	256	25	Florida State
68	Patton, Joe	G	6-5	288	24	Alabama A&M
53	Patton, Marcus	LB	6-2	243	29	UCLA
24	Richard, Stanley	S	6-2	197	28	Texas
39	Rush, Tyrone	RB	5-11	196	25	No. Alabama
23	Savage, Sebastian	CB	5-11	196	26	N. C. State
86	Shepherd, Leslie	WR	5-11	189	26	Temple
5	Shuler, Heath	QB	6-2	221	24	Tennessee
76	Simmons, Ed	T	6-5	300	32	E. Washington
37	Smith, Cedric	RB	5-10	222	28	Florida
61	Smith, Vernice	G	6-3	298	30	Florida A&M
94	Stephens, Rod	LB	6-1	237	30	Georgia Tech
84	Stock, Mark	WR	6-0	180	30	VMI
27	Taylor, Keith	S	5-11	206	31	Illinois
19	Thomas, Doug	WR	5-10	178	26	Clemson
48	Thompson, Ernie	RB	5-11	257	26	Indiana
84	Truitt, Olanda	WR	6-0	190	25	Miss. State
90	Vanderbeek, Matt	LB	6-3	243	28	Michigan St.
35	Washington, James	S	6-1	209	31	UCLA
94	Wilson, Bobby	DT	6-2	297	28	Michigan St.
83	Winans, Tydus	WR	5-11	180	23	Fresno State
98	Woods, Tony	DE	6-4	269	30	Pittsburgh
28	Wycheck, Frank	RB	6-3	235	24	Maryland

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Westbrook, Michael	WR	6-3	210	Colorado
2	Raymer, Cory	C	6-3	293	Wisconsin
3	Pounds, Darryl	S	5-10	177	Nicholls State
4	Jones, Larry	RB	6-0	235	Miami
5	Asher, Jamie	TE	6-4	244	Louisville
5	Owens, Rich	DE	6-5	244	Lehigh
6	Thure, Brian	OG	6-4	297	California
7	Turner, Scott	CB	5-9	180	Illinois

NFC west



STEVE YOUNG

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Hit by the loss of running back Ricky Watters to Philadelphia, the champion 49ers should be comforted by the memory that they once won a Super Bowl with Ricky Patton as their ace runner. If not, they can be comforted by the selection of J.J. Stokes in the first round of the draft after moving from the 30th spot to 10th. So long as Steve Young is throwing and Jerry Rice is catching, the 49ers will be moving



along quite nicely, thank you, whether Ricky Watters is on board or not. Recognizing that he would never be quite the center of attention he envisions while playing sidekick to Young and Rice, Watters took more money where he will do more running.

While the 49ers know they would be better off with Watters than without him, they also recall he was a second-round draft choice who can be replaced more easily than Young or Rice. So they started with Stokes, a big, sure-handed receiver more highly regarded than Rice was as a collegian. His addition sent rivals into various states of apoplexy. Couldn't they all use a 6-5 target with great reach and hands and ability? Didn't they all have a chance to move into the top 10 to get him? Shortly after Stokes's selection, new division cousin Carolina Panthers drafted a 5-8 cornerback named Tyrone Poole, who

apparently comes with a ladder.

The legality of providing Young with yet another target is being researched by defensive coordinators everywhere. After setting NFL records for accuracy and efficiency in one of the greatest seasons a quarterback ever enjoyed, Young shouldn't be the beneficiary of such luxury. It's no way to establish NFL parity. Young wouldn't dare to wish for a better 12 months from early 1994 to 1995. After injuries to his offensive line threatened to get him killed, and a disappointing loss to Joe Montana in Kansas City, Young broke loose with a memorable sideline tantrum after coach George Seifert yanked him in a 40-8 loss to Philadelphia. From then on, it was Young's team, right through a 10-game winning streak, the Super Bowl, every conceivable personal award, and Montana's retirement the week before the draft. Then he gets Stokes on top of it.

Stokes will replace John Taylor, whose best days as the perfect complement for Rice are over. Rice, of course, is coming off 112 receptions, his all-time high, and 13 touchdowns. Now the leading touchdown-maker in football history, he is well on his way toward setting every record known to receivers. He needs only 730 yards to pass James Lofton as the all-team leader in receiving yards. If Rice and Stokes are ever covered at the same time, and improving third receiver Nate Singleton can't be located, there is always old reliable Brent Jones, the leading tight end receiver in the NFC.

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Brien 105 points on 60 extra points and 15 field goals.....	6th
RUSHING—Watters, 877 yards on 239 carries, 3.7 avg., 6 TDs.....	8th
PASSING—Young, 324 of 461 attempts for 3,969 yards and 35 TDs.....	1st
RECEIVING—Rice, 112 receptions for 1,499 yards, 13.4 avg., 13 TDs.....	2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Hanks, 7 for 93 yards, 13.3 average.....	2nd
PUNTING—Wilmsmeyer, 54 punts, 41.4 avg., longest 60 yards.....	8th
PUNT RETURNS—Carter, 38 for 321 yards, 8.4 average.....	8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Carter, 48 for 1,105 yards, 23.0 average, 1 TD.....	11th
SACKS—Stubblefield, 8.5 sacks.....	10th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	29	At Denver (N)
August	5	vs. Denver at Tokyo (N)
	13	At San Diego
	19	CAROLINA
	26	SEATTLE

1995 SCHEDULE

		1994 SCORES
September	3	At New Orleans.....35-14
	10	ATLANTA.....50-14
	17	NEW ENGLAND.....—
	25	At Detroit (N).....27-21
October	1	N.Y. GIANTS.....—
	8	OPEN DATE.....—
	15	At Indianapolis.....—
	22	At St. Louis.....34-19
	29	NEW ORLEANS.....24-13
November	5	CAROLINA.....—
	12	At Dallas.....21-14
	20	At Miami (N).....—
	26	ST. LOUIS.....31-27
December	3	BUFFALO (N).....—
	10	At Carolina.....—
	18	MINNESOTA (N).....14-21
	24	At Atlanta.....42-3

To ease the loss of Watters, the 49ers acquired Derrick Moore from the Lions. Since being a backup to Barry Sanders is no reflection on a man's talent, Moore is a man to watch. After losing both Dexter Carter (Jets) and Derek Loville (Broncos), the 49ers are genuinely hurting at running back, but the arrival of Stokes lets everybody know what the 49ers think of runners anyway. If all else fails, there is always fullback William Floyd, as William Floyd as been reminding coach George Seifert. Just give him the ball, he says, and all will be well. He will be his own blocker, if necessary. Seifert admits that Floyd's insertion into the lineup as a rookie in week six marked the turning point in the 49ers' championship season. He is a talent as a receiver, runner, and blocker, and his nickname, "Bar None," is beginning to look like more than a premature boast.

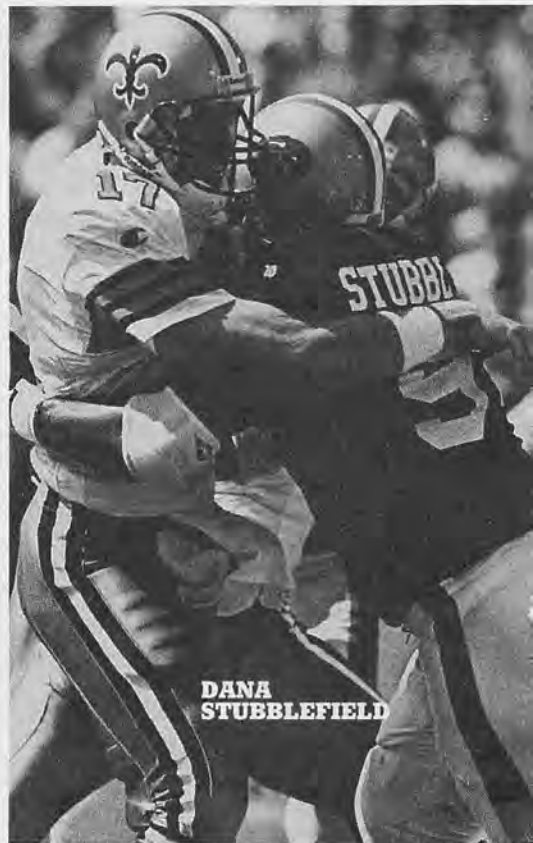
The 49ers were able to make their Super Bowl run because they made certain their offensive line would remain intact. So tackles Harris Barton and Steve Wallace, guards Jesse Sapolu and Derrick Deese, and center Bart Oates were solid the second half of the season after battling injury. Their health remains a vital factor in San Francisco's hopes to repeat. Signing tackle Kirk Scharf from Denver was a plus.

A year ago, defense was the primary concern of Seifert, who added Dallas linebacker Ken Norton Jr. and an assortment of pass rushers, including ex-Saint Rickey Jackson, ex-Bear Richard Dent, and ex-

Redskin Charles Mann. Later in the season, he added ex-Packer and ex-Eagle Tim Harris, who was on his second tour of duty in San Francisco. With their first draft choice in '94, the 49ers took defensive tackle Bryant Young, and the final piece of the puzzle was landing cornerback Deion Sanders. The result was a defense that finished eighth overall, second against the run, a major shortcoming the previous season.

This year, Seifert concentrated on offense, but that doesn't mean there aren't question marks on his favorite side of the ball. The availability of Sanders remains as unpredictable as the sport of baseball. He has expressed an interest in returning, but not for the measly \$1 million he made from the 49ers last year. The 49ers want him back, but when and how is unknown. Up front, the 49ers added Oliver Barnett from the Bills and bid farewell to Jackson, Dent, and Mann. Harris possibly will return.

Young and the 1993 No. 1 draft choice, Dana Stubblefield, remain the keys. Their disruptive style inside makes everything else happen. Said linebacker Gary Plummer: "No doubt in my mind Young was most valuable player." Dennis Brown is the starting left end, but Seifert needs Todd Kelly, another 1993 No. 1, or Troy Wilson to come through big time as a pass rusher. As insurance, he drafted Texas A&M's Antonio Armstrong in the sixth round and took a flyer on a kid named Herbert Coleman from tiny Trinity (IL) College as another raw pass-rushing prospect.



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Norton and Plummer form the nucleus of the run-stuffing linebackers, with second-year find Lee Woodall outside. Woodall was a sixth-round pickup last year, providing hope for Armstrong and Coleman. Young Kevin Mitchell, Anthony Peterson, and Antonio Goss are special teams-type backup linebackers.

To protect against the absence of Sanders, the 49ers signed cornerback/safety Marquez Pope from the Rams. Pope can either replace strong safety Tim McDonald or play the corner. Likewise, ex-cornback Merton Hanks became an all-pro at free safety upon Sanders' arrival. Eric Davis is the other cornerback, with Tyrone Drake-

ford another possible replacement for Sanders. Toi Cook is the veteran nickel back and reserve, along with Dedrick Dodge.

Doug Brien had an excellent rookie year as place-kicker. Losing Carter puts a major

crimp in the kick-return area. They lost punter Klaus Wilmsmeyer to New Orleans, but with the addition of Stokes, the 49ers may become the first team to enter a season without the need for a punter.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ers

George Seifert, Head Coach
Bill McPherson, Assistant Head Coach
Marc Trestman, Offensive Coordinator
Pete Carroll, Defensive Coordinator
Jerry Attaway, Strength & Conditioning
Mike Barnes, Strength & Conditioning Assistant
Dwaine Board, Defensive Line
Neal Dahlen, Coaching Administrator
Tom Holmoe, Defensive Backs
Carl Jackson, Running Backs
Larry Kirksey, Receivers
Alan Lowry, Special Teams
John Marshall, Linebackers
Bobb McKittrick, Offensive Line
Mike Solari, Tight Ends/Offensive Line Assistant

49ERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
77	Adams, Theo	T	6-4	300	30	Hawaii
77	Barnett, Oliver	DE	6-3	292	30	Kentucky
79	Barton, Harris	T	6-4	286	32	No. Carolina
4	Brien, Doug	K	5-11	179	25	California
96	Brown, Dennis	DE	6-4	290	28	Washington
86	Carolan, Brett	TE	6-3	241	25	Wash. State
41	Cook, Toi	CB	5-11	188	31	Stanford
67	Dalman, Chris	G	6-3	285	26	Stanford
25	Davis, Eric	CB	5-11	178	28	Jville State
63	Deese, Derrick	G	6-3	270	26	USC
33	Dodge, Dedrick	S	6-2	184	29	Florida State
22	Drakeford, Tyrone	CB	5-9	185	25	Virginia Tech
40	Floyd, William	RB	6-1	242	24	Florida State
66	Gordon, Steve	C	6-3	279	27	California
98	Goss, Antonio	LB	6-4	228	29	No. Carolina
18	Grbac, Elvis	QB	6-5	232	25	Michigan
36	Hanks, Merton	S	6-2	185	28	Iowa
99	Harris, Tim	DE	6-6	258	31	Memphis
25	Hicks, Clifford	CB	5-10	187	31	Oregon
57	Jackson, Rickey	LB	6-2	243	38	Pittsburgh
84	Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	33	Santa Clara
90	Jordan, Darin	LB	6-2	245	31	Northeastern
58	Kelly, Todd	DE	6-2	259	25	Tennessee
20	Loville, Derek	RB	5-10	205	27	Oregon
71	Mann, Charles	DE	6-6	272	35	Nevada
46	McDonald, Tim	S	6-2	215	31	usc
69	Milstead, Rod	G	6-2	293	26	Delaware St.
55	Mitchell, Kevin	LB	6-1	260	25	Syracuse
31	Moore, Derrick	RB	6-1	227	28	NE Oklahoma

58	Morris, Horace	LB	6-1	230	25	Tennessee
51	Norton, Ken	LB	6-2	241	29	UCLA
66	Oates, Bart	C	6-3	265	37	Brigham Yng
53	Peterson, Anthony	LB	6-0	225	24	Notre Dame
50	Plummer, Gary	LB	6-2	247	36	California
75	Pollack, Frank	T	6-5	285	28	N. Arizona
23	Pope, Marquez	CB	5-10	193	25	Fresno State
85	Popson, Ted	TE	6-4	250	29	Portland State
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	33	Miss. Val. St.
86	Rowe, Patrick	WR	6-1	195	27	San Diego St.
21	Sanders, Deion	CB	6-1	185	28	Florida State
61	Sapulu, Jesse	C	6-4	278	35	Hawaii
76	Scrifford, Kirk	T	6-6	265	29	Montana
88	Singleton, Nate	WR	5-11	190	27	Grambling
94	Stubblefield, Dana	DT	6-2	302	25	Kansas
64	Tamm, Ralph	G	6-4	280	30	West Chester
82	Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	34	Delaware St.
27	Walker, Aaron	RB	6-1	210	28	Pittsburgh
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	280	31	Auburn
92	Wilson, Troy	DE	6-4	235	25	Pittsburg St.
54	Woodall, Lee	LB	6-0	220	26	West Chester
97	Young, Bryant	DT	6-2	276	24	Notre Dame
8	Young, Steve	QB	6-2	205	34	Brigham Yng

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Stokes, J.J.	WR	6-5	217	UCLA
4	Hanshaw, Tim	OG	6-5	280	Brigham Young
5	Ellison, O'Mar	WR	6-1	204	Florida State
6	Armstrong, Antonio	LB	6-1	230	Texas A&M
7	Coleman, Herb	DE	6-3	284	Trinity (IL)

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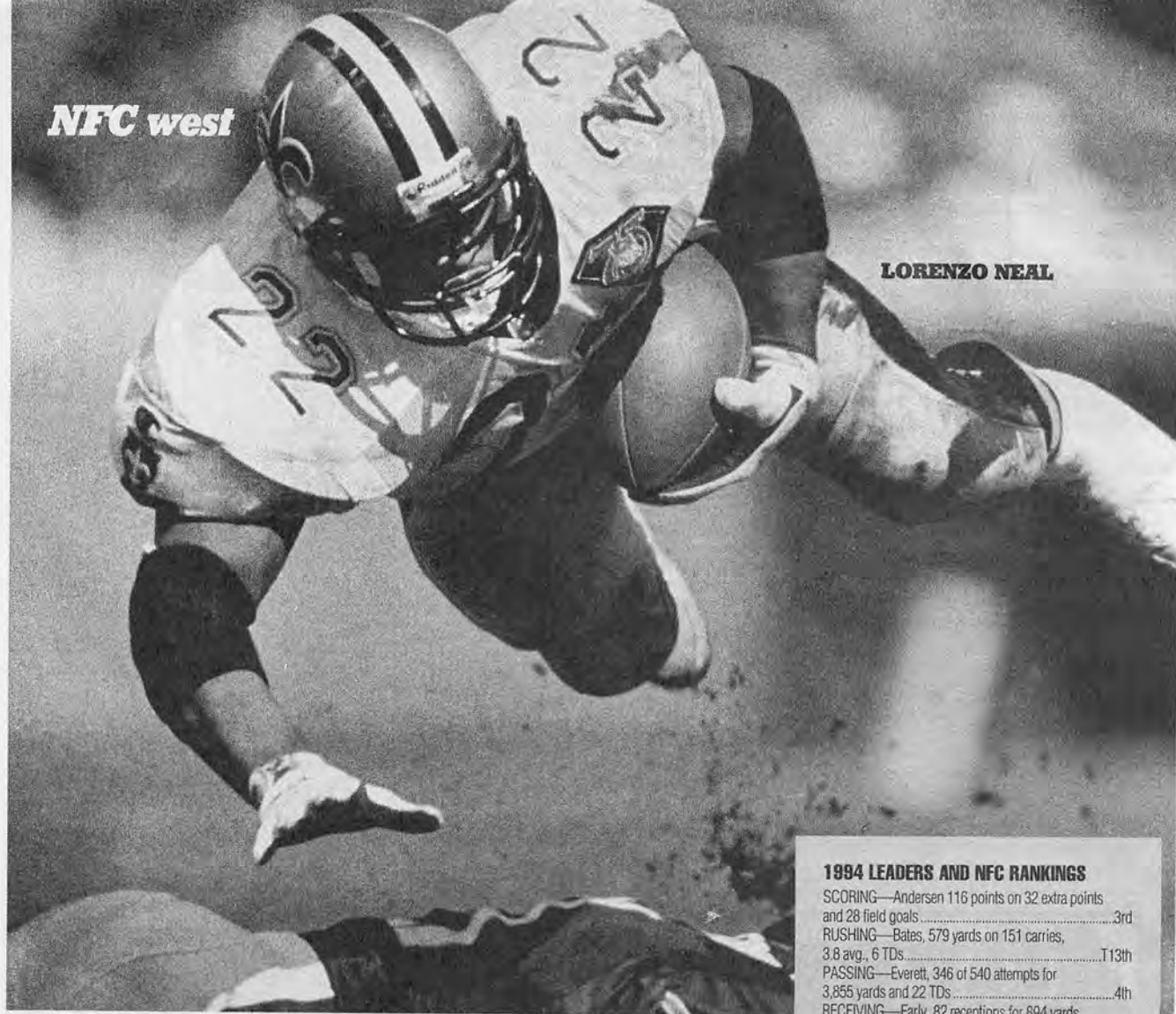
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LORENZO NEAL



NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

The defense that had carried the Saints from oblivion to the threshold of success finally disintegrated last year, leaving New Orleans with regrets over what might have been. Ordinarily, a defense as solid as the one the Saints used to have needs only average help from the offense to get over the top. But putting it all together is a goal that has eluded this franchise from its beginnings, leaving it as the only team never to have won a playoff game.

Fortunately, the Saints get company this season in the form of expansion teams Carolina and Jacksonville, but that only increases the pressure to produce before they do. Unfortunately, the Saints became unwilling contributors to the initial building of those new franchises.

The Panthers hired linebackers Sam Mills and Darion Conner and punter Tommy Barnhardt from the Saints. The Jaguars took linebackers Joel Smeenge and James Williams and cornerback Vinnie Clark. Although none of those players were being groomed in New Orleans as the keys to rebuilding, the Saints can only hope none of them turn out to be replicas of Mel Gray, the Plan B discard who became an all-pro kick returner in Detroit and is still terrorizing special teams.

The Saints are holding their own by collecting players from other teams, starting with quarterback Jim Everett of the Rams last year and cornerback Eric Allen of the Eagles this year. If Allen can offer a similar boost to the defense that Everett provided the offense, coach Jim Mora will be on his way. "Jim's contribution to this team was above and beyond what I anticipated when we made the trade," Mora said. "He leads by example, because nobody works harder than he does."

Everett saved the Saints from total embarrassment last season by carrying the offense and covering up for defensive shortcomings with the best season a Saints' quarterback ever had. His 3,855 passing yards and 64.1 completion percentage were club records. He was one shy of the club TD mark with 22. At age 32, Everett is just entering his prime, the Saints think, leaving second-year backup Doug Nussmeier plenty of time to develop. Talking ex-Cardinal Timm Rosenbach into an NFL comeback was an interesting move, but Rosenbach is an emergency measure at this juncture in Everett's career. "Jim's a young 32," said Mora. "He's in great shape, he's got a great attitude, and he became a team leader as soon as he got here."

The team leader part cannot be overemphasized, because Everett got what Mora

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Andersen 116 points on 32 extra points and 28 field goals.....	3rd
RUSHING—Bates, 579 yards on 151 carries, 3.8 avg., 6 TDs.....	T13th
PASSING—Everett, 346 of 540 attempts for 3,855 yards and 22 TDs.....	4th
RECEIVING—Early, 82 receptions for 894 yards, 10.9 avg., 4 TDs.....	6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Spencer, 5 for 24 yards, 4.8 average.....	T5th
Clark, 5 for 149 yards, 29.8 average.....	T5th
PUNTING—Barnhardt, 67 punts, 43.6 avg., longest 57 yards.....	4th
PUNT RETURNS—Hughes, 21 for 143 yards, 6.8 average.....	10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Hughes, 63 for 1,556 yards, 24.7 average, 2 TDs.....	6th
SACKS—Conner, 10.5 sacks.....	T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	vs. Green Bay at Madison
	11	At N.Y. Giants (N)
	20	SEATTLE
	25	DETROIT (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

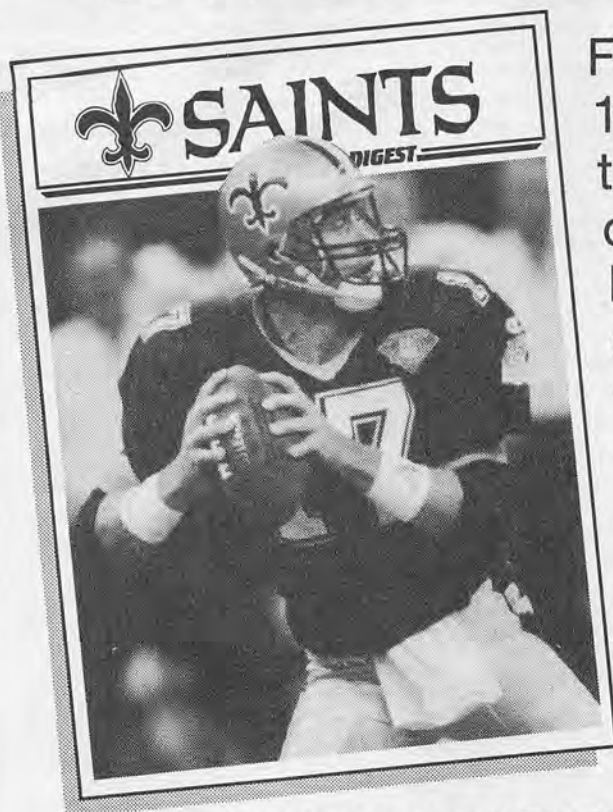
1994 SCORES

September	3	At Green Bay.....	17-24
	10	NEW ORLEANS.....	15-31
	17	At Carolina.....	—
	24	CHICAGO.....	13-27
October	1	At Indianapolis.....	—
	12	ATLANTA (N).....	5-8
	22	SAN FRANCISCO.....	19-34
	29	At Philadelphia.....	—
November	5	At New Orleans.....	34-37
	12	CAROLINA.....	—
	19	At Atlanta.....	13-31
	26	At San Francisco.....	27-31
December	3	At N.Y. Jets.....	—
	10	BUFFALO.....	—
	17	WASHINGTON.....	21-24
	24	MIAMI.....	—



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believes is a bad rap in Los Angeles, where he was perceived as looking out more for his own health than for the welfare of the team. With the Saints, Everett has the makings of more support than he's ever been able to enjoy. With the Rams, there never seemed to be the balance of run and pass that makes any quarterback more effective.

Last year, the emergence of rookie running back Mario Bates provided a glimpse of future possibilities. After suffering a broken jaw in a barroom brawl with his own teammate and blocking back, Lorenzo Neal, Bates couldn't make his debut until the Saints were 2-5. He finished with 579 yards and showed the kind of big-time inside-outside running talent that makes him a player to watch. Although he became the fourth rookie in a row to lead the Saints in rushing, Bates doesn't figure to allow the team to keep up that dubious streak of happenstance, even though he will be joined in the

a rare breed who will do wonders for the confidence and longevity of any quarterback. Left guard Jim Dombrowski returned to outstanding form last season and gives Everett added peace of mind. Center Jeff Uhlenhake, right guard Chris Port, and right tackle Richard Cooper all had good years. Their health is critical because the Saints are thin up front. Wisconsin's Mike Vestegen, a third-rounder, becomes a key backup.

Mora hired ex-Viking Monte Kiffin to change the defense from the 3-4 to the 4-3, and the drafting of linebacker Mark Fields No. 1 is a first step toward returning to prominence. Losing Mills was a psychological as well as physical blow, because few players contribute as much as Mills did to a franchise. Teamed with second-year man Winfred Tubbs and ex-Seahawk Rufus Porter, Fields should help the Saints put the past behind them. Defensive end Wayne Martin is coming off the finest year Mora has seen any Saint have and he is expected to continue his dominance inside in the new front next to second-year man Joe Johnson, also switching from end. Renaldo Turnbull will move from linebacker to right end and fourth-round rookie Dameian Jeffries of Alabama has a chance to compete for the spot at left end. The Saints will miss the retired Frank Warren.

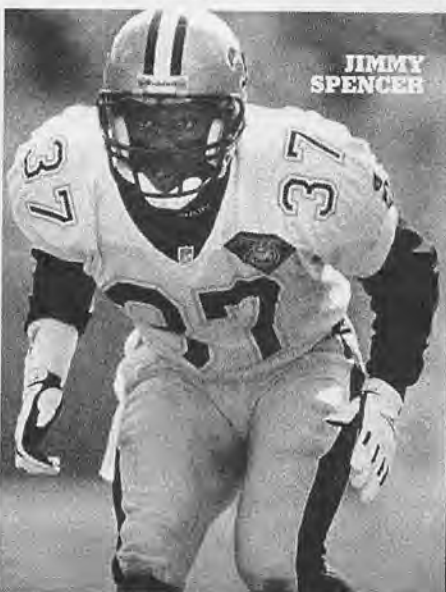
Allen had an off year in Philadelphia, so a comeback is crucial if the Saints are to

improve an area of need. Jimmy Spencer is the other cornerback and two rookies, William Strong of North Carolina State and Travis Davis of Notre Dame, will get every chance to play, as will kick returner Tyrone Hughes. Vince Buck is a converted corner who is now the free safety. Sean Lumpkin is the strong safety of the moment.

Replacing Barnhardt will be ex-49er Klaus Wilmsmeyer, who was practically idle in the San Francisco offense. Morten Andersen is still going strong as the oldest Saint, starting year 14. Hughes was sensational returning punts and kickoffs.



JIM EVERETT



JIMMY SPENCER

backfield by Notre Dame fullback Ray Zellers, who has been compared favorably with Jerome Bettis. With Zellers and Bates, the Saints could produce their best running game in years, which Mora will admit wouldn't take a whole lot. With Derek Brown as a change of pace and leading receiving threat out of the backfield, much pressure should be off Everett.

For targets, Everett has deep threat Michael Haynes, the still-developing Torrance Small, and last year's club leader, Quinn Early. The trio is joined by second-year men Derrell Mitchell and Tyrone Johnson and this year's sixth-round pick, Lee DeRamus of Wisconsin, who could be a steal if he is healthy. Tight end Wesley Walls caught 38 passes, four for touchdowns, and blocking tight end Irv Smith caught 41 as Everett showed few favorites in his balanced passing attack. Although Haynes has the reputation for the deep ball, it was Small who led the team in average per catch at 14.7 yards.

A bonus for Everett is the pass blocking of his offensive line, led by all-pro Willie Roaf, who dominated at left tackle in only his second season and his first on that side. Roaf is

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

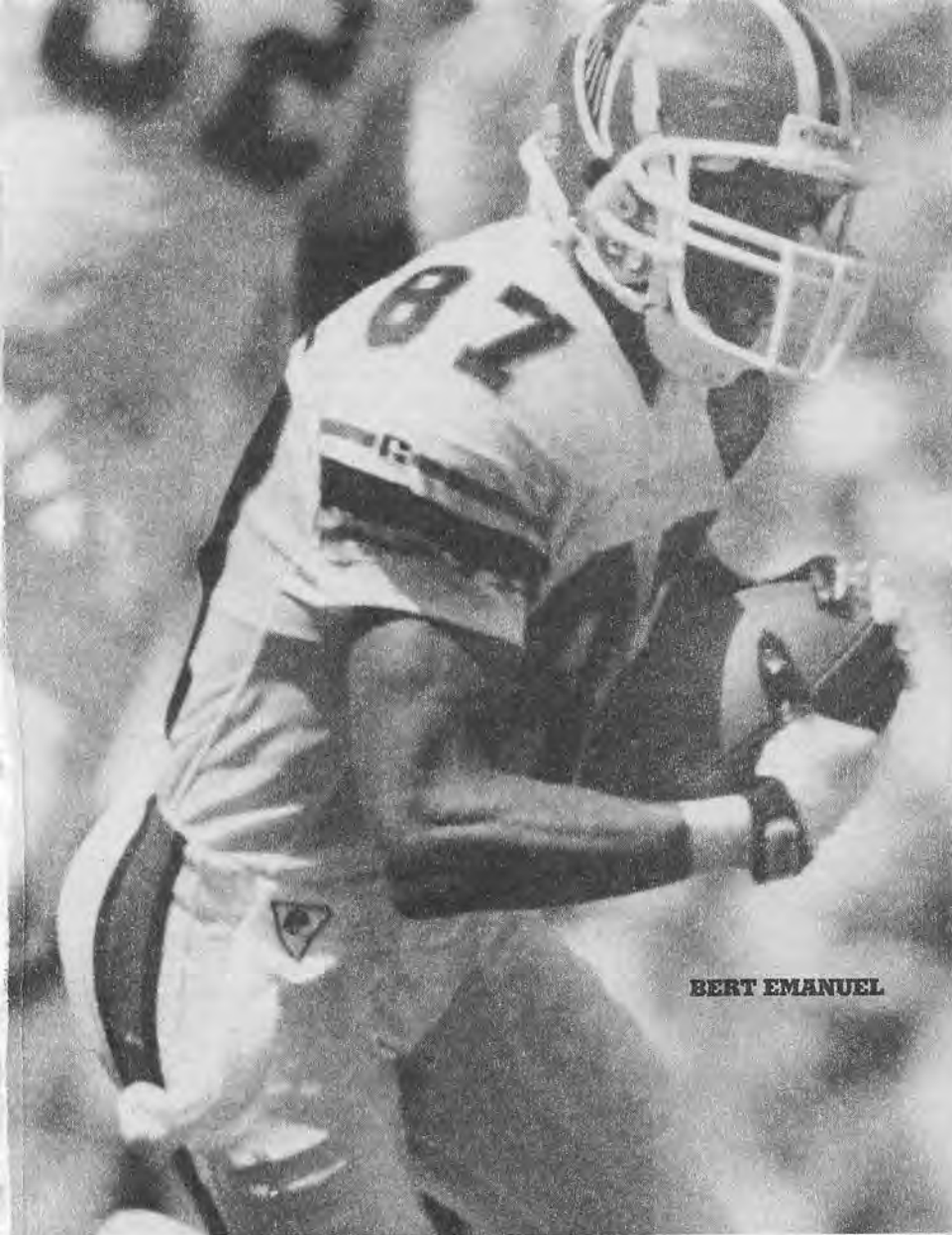
Jim Mora, Vice President/Head Coach
 Carl Smith, Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
 Jim Haslett, Linebackers
 Larry Kennan, Tight Ends
 Monte Kiffin, Defensive Coordinator
 Wayne Nunnely, Defensive Line
 Steve Trimble, Defensive Assistant
 Joe Marciano, Tight Ends/Special Teams
 John Matsko, Offensive Line
 Jim L. Mora, Defensive Backs
 Russell Paternostro, Strength & Conditioning
 Jim Skipper, Running Backs
 Steve Walters, Wide Receivers

SAINTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
	Allen, Eric	CB	5-10	180	30	Arizona State
7	Andersen, Morten	K	6-2	221	35	Michigan St.
24	Bates, Mario	RB	6-1	217	23	Arizona State
	Bavaro, David	LB	6-0	228	29	Syracuse
10	Blanchard, Cary	K	6-1	225	27	Oklahoma St.
86	Botkin, Kirk	TE	6-2	233	25	Arkansas
21	Brown, Derek	RB	5-9	186	25	Nebraska
26	Buck, Vince	CB	6-0	198	28	Central St.
45	Byrd, Israel	CB	5-11	184	25	Utah State
74	Carroll, Herman	DE	6-4	265	25	Miss. State
71	Cooper, Richard	T	6-5	290	31	Tennessee
76	Davidson, Jeff	G	6-5	309	28	Ohio State
56	Dixon, Ernest	LB	6-1	250	24	So. Carolina
72	Dombrowski, Jim	G	6-5	298	32	Virginia
32	Dunbar, Vaughn	RB	5-10	204	27	Indiana
89	Early, Quinn	WR	6-0	190	31	Iowa
17	Everett, Jim	QB	6-5	212	32	Purdue
91	Goff, Robert	DE	6-3	270	30	Auburn
98	Hanna, Jim	NT	6-4	255	24	Louisville
	Harvey, Richard	LB	6-1	242	29	Tulane
81	Haynes, Michael	WR	6-1	180	30	N. Arizona
33	Hughes, Tyrone	CB	5-9	175	26	Nebraska
94	Johnson, Joe	DE	6-4	280	23	Louisville
80	Johnson, Tyrone	WR	5-11	171	24	Western State
27	Jones, Selwyn	CB	6-0	185	26	Colorado St.
68	Kline, Alan	T	6-5	277	25	Ohio State
43	Legette, Tyrone	CB	5-9	177	26	Nebraska
46	Lumpkin, Sean	S	6-0	206	26	Minnesota
93	Martin, Wayne	DE	6-5	275	30	Arkansas
44	McCleskey, J.J.	CB	5-7	177	26	Tennessee
67	McCollum, Andy	G	6-5	270	26	Toledo
88	Mitchell, Derrell	WR	5-9	190	24	Texas Tech
25	Mustar, Brad	RB	6-4	235	31	Stanford
22	Neal, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	240	25	Fresno State
36	Ned, Derrick	RB	6-1	220	27	Grambling
60	Novitsky, Craig	C	6-5	295	25	UCLA
13	Nussmeier, Doug	QB	6-2	212	25	Idaho
70	Port, Chris	G	6-5	290	28	Duke
	Porter, Rufus	LB	6-1	227	31	Southern
84	Rhem, Steve	WR	6-2	212	24	Minnesota
77	Roaf, William	T	6-4	300	26	La. Tech
78	Roth, Tom	G	6-5	285	27	S. Illinois
83	Small, Torrance	WR	6-3	201	25	Alcorn State
82	Smith, Irv	TE	6-3	246	24	Notre Dame
37	Spencer, Jimmy	CB	5-9	180	27	Florida
54	Tubbs, Winfred	LB	6-4	250	25	Texas
97	Turnbull, Renaldo	LB	6-4	250	30	West Virginia
62	Uhlenhake, Jeff	C	6-3	284	30	Ohio State
85	Walls, Wesley	TE	6-5	250	30	Mississippi
73	Warren, Frank	DE	6-4	290	36	Auburn
65	Williams, Willie	T	6-6	295	28	LSU
10	Wilmsmeyer, Klaus	P	6-1	210	28	Louisville
92	Winston, DeMond	LB	6-2	239	27	Vanderbilt

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Fields, Mark	LB	6-1	244	Washington State
2	Zellers, Ray	RB	5-11	228	Notre Dame
3	Vestegen, Mike	OT	6-5	305	Wisconsin
4	Jeffries, Dameian	DE	6-4	277	Alabama
5	Strong, William	CB	5-9	187	N. C. State
6	DeRamus, Lee	WR	6-0	200	Wisconsin
7	Davis, Travis	S	6-0	192	Notre Dame



BERT EMANUEL

ATLANTA FALCONS

The Denver Broncos tried it in the AFC and the Atlanta Falcons continue to go for it in the NFC: winning without any regard for defense. If successful, the Falcons will have revolutionized football and stomped out a whole dictionary of clichés.

With the addition of Eric Metcalf and J.J.

Birden to alleviate the loss of Andre Rison, coach June Jones has the makings for another highly effective run-and-shoot attack. Plans to get Metcalf the ball in the open field from the slot receiver sound like dreams the Cleveland Browns never could

develop. The apparent maturing of quarterback Jeff George is a scary thing for opposing defenses to behold. The emergence of Terance Mathis made Rison expendable. The resurrection of Craig Heyward provides an unexpected luxury dimension.

But the same question remains: Once the Falcons get a lead, how do they hold it? They had a lead in 14 of the 16 games they

played last year. They had the lead in the fourth quarter in 12 of the 16 games. They had the lead at the two-minute warning in 11 of the 16 games. Yet they finished with a 7-9 record. You figure it out. They beat only one team with a winning record, the Chargers—without quarterback Stan Humphries. They won four games against last-place teams. Defensive coordinator Jim Bates was let go after only one year and an ill-fated scheme that pass rusher Chris Doleman criticized after one game. The new coordinator, Joe Haering, was promoted from within the staff and will play a more conventional 4-3.

Outscoring teams still appears to be the best chance Jones has to win soon. With George starting his second year in the run-and-shoot, the prospects are bright for more high-scoring days. George started every game and displayed toughness that had become a question in Indianapolis. Any run-and-shoot quarterback is going to get his share of hits, so his resilience was welcome. So is his rifle arm and quick release. He went 279 passes without an interception, yet still wound up with 18 interceptions, so he must continue to work on not giving up big plays. Re-signing Bobby Hebert provides

Jones with an accomplished backup for George in case of injury or a slump. Not many teams have such a luxury.

Getting rid of Rison could mean addition by subtraction if all his distractions are considered. For all his talent, he was a pain in the neck for Jones or any coach who thinks that showing up on time, for example, is important. Mathis was phenomenal, gaining more than 500 of his 1,342 receiving yards after the catch, demonstrating that small stature is not without its advantages. He proved more elusive than Rison and also got into the end zone more often.

The addition of Metcalf is a grand experiment to complement Mathis as a slot receiver. The Falcons think the run-and-shoot is the answer to the question the Browns gave up asking: how to get Metcalf the ball in the open field. Jones also sees Metcalf as a change-of-pace running back playing beside Heyward or without him. Even if Metcalf fails on both counts, he can help the Falcons as a premier kick-return man.

Birden gives George a complementary outside speed receiver opposite young Bert Emanuel. Birden can get open and get deep and Emanuel was outstanding playing receiver as a rookie after a college career at quarterback. Once he starts to react rather than think, Emanuel will be doubly dangerous.

Heyward fits nicely into the run-and-shoot because, despite his size, he is a nifty back who can catch as well as provide

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Johnson 95 points on 32 extra points and 21 field goals.....	9th
RUSHING—Heyward, 779 yards on 183 carries, 4.3 avg., 7 TDs.....	10th
PASSING—George, 322 of 524 attempts for 3,734 yards and 23 TDs.....	8th
RECEIVING—Mathis, 111 receptions for 1,342 yards, 12.1 avg., 11 TDs.....	3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—Johnson, 5 for 0 yards, 0.0 average.....	15th
PUNTING—Alexander, 71 punts, 39.9 avg., longest 61 yards.....	12th
PUNT RETURNS—Verdin, 23 for 113 yards, 4.9 average.....	12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Verdin, 44 for 1,026 yards, 23.3 average.....	8th
SACKS—Smith, 11.0 sacks.....	4th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	At Philadelphia (N)
	11	MIAMI (N)
	19	CLEVELAND (N)
	25	At Buffalo (N)

1995 SCHEDULE 1994 SCORES

September	3	CAROLINA.....	—
	10	At San Francisco.....	14-50
	17	At New Orleans.....	32-33
	24	N.Y. JETS.....	—
October	1	NEW ENGLAND.....	—
	12	At St. Louis (N).....	8-5
	22	At Tampa Bay.....	34-13
	29	DALLAS.....	—
November	5	DETROIT.....	28-31
	12	At Buffalo.....	—
	19	ST. LOUIS.....	31-13
	26	At Arizona.....	10-6
December	3	At Miami.....	—
	10	NEW ORLEANS.....	20-29
	17	At Carolina.....	—
	24	SAN FRANCISCO.....	3-42



George with exceptional protection. There isn't a better blocking back in football. Due to the retirement of venerable left tackle Mike Kenn, Heyward may be forced to block more often. Kenn leaves a huge hole that right tackle Bob Whitfield appears ready to fill because Whitfield starred at that position in college. Of bigger concern is the hole Whitfield will leave at right tackle, where the Falcons are counting heavily that Lincoln Kennedy won't be too heavy. If he is better suited to guard and can't handle the outside rushers, trouble looms. Inside, the Falcons are set with athletic center Roman Fortin and mauling guard Mike Zandofsky opposite big Dave Richards.

Jones would love to have so little to worry about on defense, the key to Atlanta's success. Signing outside linebacker Darryl Talley from Buffalo follows a pattern of bringing in hard-working productive players from other regimes that started two years ago with Pierce Holt and continued last season with Clay Matthews. The question is whether their contributions can match their enthusiasm. In the case of Doleman, the result was so negative it threatened to unglue the team before it had a chance to jell. Doleman, still a good pass rusher when healthy and motivated, is coming off foot surgery and will be turned loose to do the only thing he does well—rush upfield.

The Falcons remain small on defense and not necessarily fast, with Matthews and Talley flanking inside linebacker Jessie Tuggle. Third-rounder Lorenzo Styles will help. The outside rush of Chuck Smith produced 11 sacks last year, but Smith is a specialist who can't help stop the run and is coming off serious knee surgery. Under-sized Moe Gardner remains an overachieving inside force who would benefit with more help. Jumpy Geathers jumped ship in yet another contract dispute, so there is plenty of room up front, where Holt is so beat up he has lost his ability to make many

plays. Lester Archambeau was playing ahead of Doleman at times a year ago and is a good backup.

In the secondary, the Falcons expect the return of safety Roger Harper from a broken arm will help solidify an area left reeling when Deion Sanders bolted. Harper is a potential star in the Joey Browner mold at free safety and his presence may result in a move by veteran Kevin Ross to strong safety, but first-rounder Devin Bush of Florida State could push. Cornerback D.J. Johnson had an excellent season with five interceptions, and the Falcons hope second-year man Anthony Phillips is ready to replace Darnell Walker on the left side. Phillips is big, fast, and raw and his development is a key ingredient. Second-

ATLANTA FALCONS

June Jones, Head Coach
Frank Gansz, Assistant Head Coach/
 Special Teams
Milt Jackson, Assistant Head Coach/
 Wide Receivers
Joe Haering, Defensive Coordinator
Darrel Davis, Quarterbacks
Bill Kollar, Defensive Line
Ollie Wilson, Running Backs
Bob Palcic, Offensive Line
Keith Armstrong, Defensive Assistant
Rod Rust, Defensive Assistant
Tim Jorgensen, Strength & Conditioning



ERIC METCALF



JEFF GEORGE

rounder Ronald Davis could be a factor. Brad Edwards and Rich Miano will serve as backups in the middle.

Special teams under coach Frank Gansz figure to be a tremendous Falcon strength. Metcalf and ex-Bear Nate Lewis will more than replace Clarence Verdin as the kick-return specialist. The signing of former Buccaneer Dan Stryzinski provides an underrated and excellent punter. And nobody kicks field goals more consistently than Norm Johnson, who has made an astonishing 52 of his last 57 kicks in his last 34 games.

FALCONS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
68	Agee, Mel	DE	6-5	298	27	Illinois
73	Anderson, Dunstan	DE	6-4	260	25	Tulsa
32	Anderson, Jamal	RB	5-10	246	24	Utah
92	Archambeau, Lester	DE	6-5	275	29	Stanford
	Birden, J.J.	WR	5-9	165	31	Oregon
25	Case, Scott	S	6-1	188	34	Oklahoma
56	Doleman, Chris	DE	6-5	275	34	Pittsburgh
20	Edwards, Brad	S	6-2	207	30	So. Carolina
87	Emanuel, Bert	WR	5-10	171	25	Rice
48	Ford, Darryl	LB	6-1	225	30	New Mex. St.
65	Fortin, Roman	G	6-5	295	29	San Diego St.
67	Gardner, Moe	NT	6-2	261	27	Illinois
1	George, Jeff	QB	6-4	218	28	Illinois
50	George, Ron	LB	6-2	225	26	Stanford
53	Gordon, Dwayne	LB	6-1	231	26	New Hamp.
47	Harper, Roger	S	6-2	223	25	Ohio State
82	Harris, Leonard	WR	5-8	166	35	Texas Tech
3	Hebert, Bobby	QB	6-4	215	35	NW Louisiana
34	Heyward, Craig	RB	5-11	260	29	Pittsburgh
95	Holt, Pierce	DT	6-4	275	34	Angelo State
39	Jack, Eric	CB	5-10	177	24	New Mexico
44	Johnson, D.J.	CB	6-0	183	29	Kentucky
9	Johnson, Norm	K	6-2	203	36	UCLA
8	Jones, Preston	QB	6-3	223	25	Georgia
78	Kenn, Mike	T	6-7	286	40	Michigan
66	Kennedy, Lincoln	G	6-6	335	25	Washington
7	Klein, Perry	QB	6-2	214	25	C.W. Post
88	Le Bel, Harper	TE	6-4	248	32	Colorado St.
86	Lyons, Mitch	TE	6-4	255	26	Michigan St.
81	Mathis, Terance	WR	5-10	177	29	New Mexico
57	Matthews, Clay	LB	6-2	245	40	usc
21	Metcalf, Eric	RB	5-10	190	28	Texas
38	Miano, Rich	S	6-1	200	33	Hawaii
22	Montgomery, Alton	S	6-0	202	28	Houston
26	Phillips, Anthony	S	6-0	217	25	Tx. A&M
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	273	38	N. C. State
15	Rogers, Joe	WR	5-7	161	25	Tx. Southern
36	Ross, Kevin	CB	5-9	182	34	Temple
83	Sanders, Ricky	WR	5-11	180	33	SW Texas S.
37	Shelley, Elbert	CB	5-11	185	31	Arkansas St.
90	Smith, Chuck	LB	6-2	254	26	Tennessee
84	Spencer, Darryl	WR	5-8	172	26	Miami
	Stryzinski, Dan	P	6-1	195	31	Indiana
	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-4	235	35	West Virginia
52	Tippins, Ken	LB	6-1	235	29	Middle Tenn.
61	Tobeck, Robbie	C	6-4	275	26	Washington St.
58	Tuggle, Jessie	LB	5-11	230	31	Valdosta State
4	Tyner, Scott	K	6-1	189	24	Oklahoma St.
	Vinson, Tony	RB	6-1	229	25	Towson State
45	Walker, Darnell	CB	5-8	164	26	Oklahoma
46	Washington, Charles	CB	6-1	217	29	Cameron
70	Whitfield, Bob	T	6-5	308	24	Stanford
69	Williams, Thomas	DT	6-3	274	25	Wyoming
72	Zandofsky, Mike	G	6-2	305	30	Washington

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Bush, Devin	S	5-11	207	Florida State
2	Davis, Ronald	CB	5-10	199	Tennessee
3	Styles, Lorenzo	LB	6-1	238	Ohio State
5	Preston, Roell	WR	5-10	182	Mississippi
6	Hall, Travis	DE	6-5	274	Brigham Young
7	Burrough, John	DE	6-5	259	Wyoming

ST. LOUIS RAMS

Already winners at the box office and winners in the NFL owners' voting booth, the Rams now have the daunting task of producing winners on the field. They have moved to owner Georgia Frontiere's home town, where she will be better able than ever to attend to her philanthropic endeavors, thanks to the largesse of a city desperate for football.



Philanthropy isn't what the fans have in mind, but they will no doubt be more patient with Frontiere than they were with

Bill Bidwill, whose Cardinals always had to be identified with the adjective "football" to distinguish them from their more popular and famous cousins from another sport. Unfortunately, the Rams must start playing in Busch Stadium, sharing it with baseball while their new football-only dome is being completed. This will not speed the process

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Zendejas 82 points on 28 extra points and 18 field goals	15th
RUSHING—Bettis, 1,025 yards on 319 carries, 3.2 avg., 3 TDs	5th
PASSING—Miller, 173 of 317 attempts for 2,104 yards and 16 TDs	11th
RECEIVING—Bailey, 58 receptions for 516 yards, 8.9 avg.	T18th
INTERCEPTIONS—Pope, 3 for 66 yards, 22.0 average	T19th
Henley, 3 for 46 yards, 15.3 average	T19th
PUNTING—Landeta, 78 punts, 44.8 avg., longest 62 yards	1st
PUNT RETURNS—Kinchin, 16 for 158 yards, 9.9 average	unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Kinchin, 21 for 510 yards, 24.3 average	7th
SACKS—Young, 6.5 sacks	T22nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	At Seattle (N)
	12	At Los Angeles (N)
	18	At Jacksonville (N)
	25	At San Diego (N)

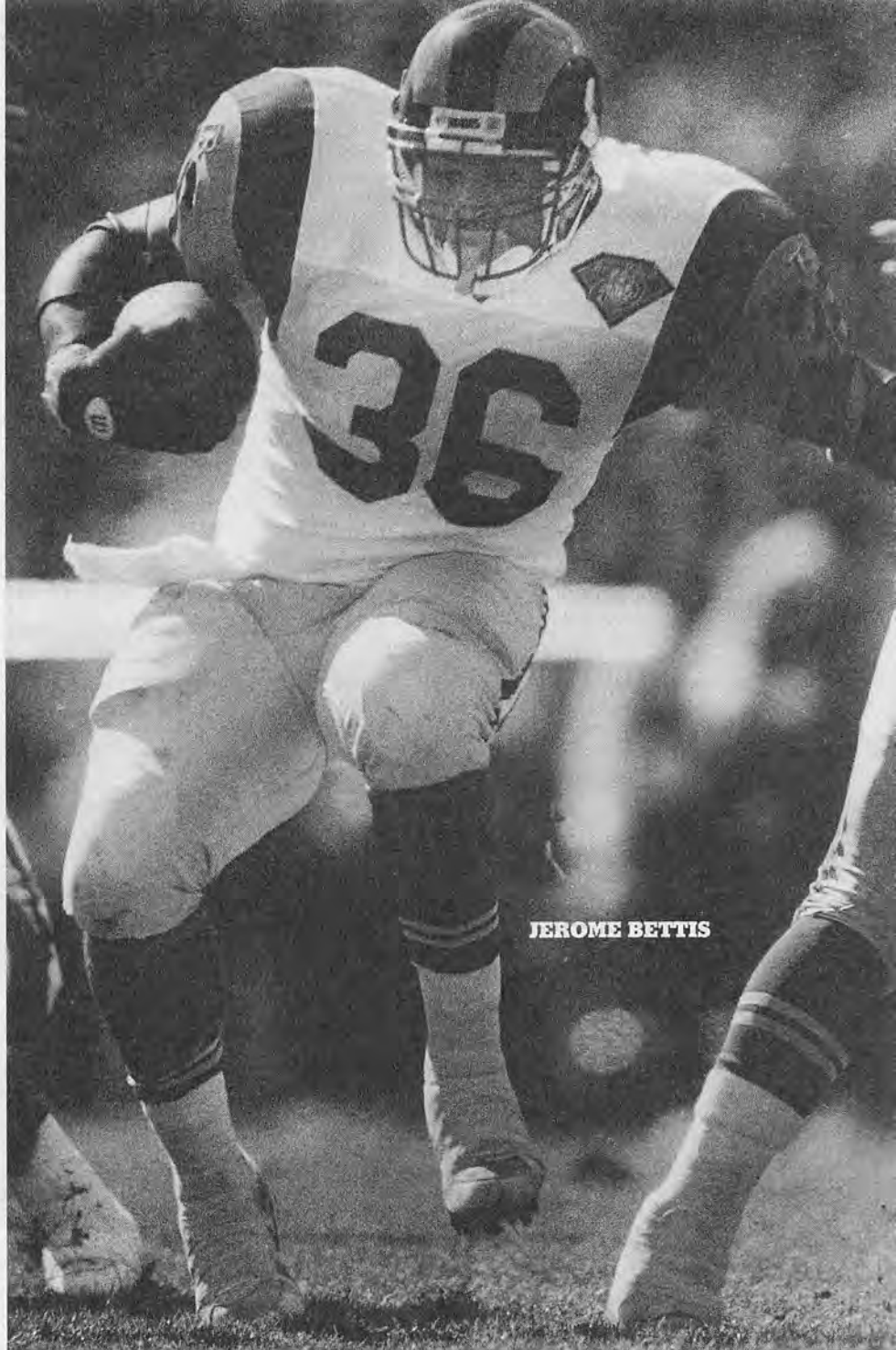
1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	At Green Bay	17-24
	10	NEW ORLEANS	15-31
	17	At Carolina	—
	24	CHICAGO	13-27
October	1	At Indianapolis	—
	12	ATLANTA (N)	5-8
	22	SAN FRANCISCO	19-34
	29	At Philadelphia	—
November	5	At New Orleans	34-37
	12	CAROLINA	—
	19	At Atlanta	13-31
	26	At San Francisco	27-31
December	3	At N.Y. Jets	—
	10	BUFFALO	—
	17	WASHINGTON	21-24

of gaining a separate identity and creating distance from the past. The football Cardinals were not always the worst show in town, so fans are not expected to remain wide-eyed over the Rams.

While the move may be a no-lose proposition for Frontiere and her cash register, it is a difficult situation for new coach Rich Brooks, who must quickly establish an identity for himself after years of relative

STREET AND SMITH'S PRO FOOTBALL



JEROME BETTIS

obscurity in Oregon. In St. Louis, they remember the failure of Bud Wilkinson—and they even knew who he was before he came. Fortunately for quarterback Chris Miller, and fortunately for Brooks, the two men knew each other at Oregon. The relationship could do wonders for the job security of both. Miller continued to struggle with injuries last year and never started more than three games in a row. He did that three separate times, no way to establish continuity. Miller never has played a full season in his eight-year career and hasn't played more than 10 games since 1991. But nobody knows him better than Brooks, who will give him every opportunity to resurrect a once-promising future. Getting rid of backup Chris Chandler was

the first step. He will be replaced by young Tommy Maddox.

Losing top wide receiver Flipper Anderson to Indianapolis was not part of Brooks's plan, but the Rams expect second-year man Isaac Bruce to step forward and they signed speedy Alexander Wright from the Raiders to play the other side. Two backups have a chance to play more prominent roles and Brooks would welcome either Todd Kinchen or Turhon O'Bannon to answer the call. Veteran Jessie Hester is good insurance. At tight end, Miller has a potential star in Troy Drayton, who led the club with six touchdown catches and is just coming into his own entering his third season. Rickey Brady and Ron Middleton provide depth and the Rams spent a fourth-round choice for Lovell

Pinkney of Texas, a wide receiver in college who is too big to play the position as a pro.

Jerome Bettis slipped from a sensational rookie season in 1993 to a 3.2-yard rushing average in '94, more a reflection of a No. 21-ranked offense than the cause. In the last seven games, Bettis averaged only 2.4 yards with no runs longer than 12 yards. In the last 13 games, he scored just one touchdown and had three all year after scoring seven as a rookie. Gunning for 2,000 yards, he managed only 1,025, far short of his talent and expectations. Somehow, Brooks and offensive coordinator Jack Reilly will have to find a way to unleash him. Tim Lester is the fullback, with

ST. LOUIS RAMS

Rich Brooks, Head Coach
Johnny Roland, Assistant Head Coach/Running Backs
Jack Reilly, Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks
Willie Shaw, Defensive Coordinator/Cornerbacks
Nick Aliotti, Safeties
Steve Brown, Defensive Assistant
Chris Clausen, Strength & Conditioning
Steve Greatwood, Offensive Line/Tight Ends
Mike Martz, Receivers
Don Pollard, Defensive Line
Dan Radakovich, Offensive Line
Jack Ramsdell, Offensive Assistant
Dick Selcer, Linebackers
Wayne Sevier, Special Teams



TODD LYGHT

David Lang, James Bostic, and third-down back Johnny Bailey providing the change of pace, although Miller ended up the team's second-leading rusher last year, not a good idea.

The Rams need to upgrade an offensive line that used to be the foundation of the franchise. Second-year man Wayne Gandy is the left tackle and second-rounders Zach Wiegert of Nebraska and Jesse James of Mississippi State were brought in to help Darryl Ashmore convince ancient right tackle Jackie Slater to stay retired. Bringing Jesse James to Missouri shows the Rams retain their sense of humor. They think he could be a steal. The exit of free agent Tom Newberry to Pittsburgh paves

the way for newcomer Dwayne White of the Jets and holdover Keith Loneker to take over at the guards. Loneker started last season but got hurt. Bern Brostek is the center, with Blair Bush, Leon Goas, Ron Edwards, and Chuck Belin battling for reserve positions.

Drafting Florida pass rusher Kevin Carter No. 1 should give the defense the boost it needs after moving up from 24th to 16th in the rankings. Tackle Sean Gilbert, hampered by sore shoulders, had only one sack the last nine games and three all season, a far cry from his 1993 Pro Bowl performance. Brooks expects to move him to left end opposite weak-side rusher Cartr, with Jimmie Jones and DeMarco Farr slated for the inside spots, pushed by Brad Ottis and David Rocker. Rush specialists Robert Young and Fred Stokes will vie for time. A wild-card as a rusher is Ernest Jones, a second-year man out of Oregon who had 13 sacks for Brooks as a senior.



SEAN GILBERT

Picking up the speedy Carlos Jenkins from Minnesota and re-signing budding star Roman Phifer give the Rams a solid look at linebacker. Shane Conlan remains steady in the middle. He led the team with 106 tackles and kept playing hard when some teammates didn't. Henry Rolling, Thomas Homco, Joe Kelly, Brett Collins, and Chris Martin are backups.

The loss of Darryl Henley in a drug case leaves the Rams thin at cornerback, where they picked up Anthony Parker from the Vikings to start opposite Todd Lyght. Steve Israel, Robert Bailey, Torin Dorn, and Dexter Davis offer some depth. The loss of safety/corner Marquez Pope to the 49ers also hurts. Toby Wright is the strong safety and Keith Lyle is the free safety with Anthony Newman and R.J. Kors in reserve, but the Rams drafted three defensive backs in rounds five and seven to challenge.

Special teams were a disaster the Rams aim to fix, especially under new director of operations Steve Ortmyer, a former special-

teams' coach. They drafted Steve McLaughlin of Arizona to replace place-kicker Tony Zendejas. Sean Landeta led the league in gross punting average, but the coverage teams gave up three touchdowns on punt returns and two on kickoff returns, so something was definitely wrong. Kinchen, Bailey, and Lang provide a decent return trio.

RAMS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
77	Ashmore, Darryl	T	6-6	300	26	Northwestern
21	Bailey, Johnny	RB	5-8	180	29	Texas A&I
28	Bailey, Robert	CB	5-9	176	27	Miami
71	Belin, Chuck	G	6-2	312	25	Wisconsin
36	Bettis, Jerome	RB	5-11	243	24	Notre Dame
33	Bostic, James	RB	5-11	225	24	Auburn
49	Brady, Rickey	TE	6-4	242	25	Oklahoma
88	Brantley, Chris	WR	5-10	175	25	Rutgers
61	Brostek, Bern	C	6-3	300	29	Washington
80	Bruce, Isaac	WR	6-1	178	23	Memphis
51	Bush, Blair	C	6-3	275	39	Washington
54	Collins, Brett	LB	6-1	234	27	Washington
56	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	235	32	Penn State
29	Davis, Dexter	CB	5-10	180	26	Clemson
84	Drayton, Troy	TE	6-3	255	26	Penn State
67	Edwards, Ronald	T	6-5	311	24	N. C. A&T
75	Farr, D'Marco	DT	6-1	270	25	Washington
70	Gandy, Wayne	T	6-4	289	25	Auburn
90	Gilbert, Sean	DT	6-4	315	26	Pittsburgh
79	Goas, Leo	G	6-4	292	29	Hawaii
86	Hester, Jessie	WR	5-11	175	33	Florida State
57	Homco, Thomas	LB	6-0	245	26	Northwestern
31	Israel, Steve	CB	5-11	186	27	Pittsburgh
	Jenkins, Carlos	LB	6-3	217	27	Michigan St.
72	Jones, Clarence	T	6-6	280	28	Maryland
50	Jones, Ernest	LB	6-2	239	25	Oregon
98	Jones, Jimmie	DT	6-4	276	30	Miami
52	Kelly, Joe	LB	6-2	235	31	Washington
81	Kinchen, Todd	WR	6-0	187	27	LSU
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	210	34	Towson State
38	Lang, David	RB	5-11	213	29	N. Arizona
34	Lester, Tim	RB	5-9	215	28	E. Kentucky
64	Loneker, Keith	G	6-3	330	25	Kansas
41	Lyght, Todd	CB	6-0	186	27	Notre Dame
35	Lyle, Keith	S	6-2	200	24	Virginia
8	Maddox, Tommy	QB	6-4	195	24	UCLA
53	Martin, Chris	LB	6-2	241	35	Auburn
9	Martin, Jamie	QB	6-2	215	26	Weber State
	McCants, Keith	DE	6-3	265	28	Alabama
87	Middleton, Ron	TE	6-2	262	30	Auburn
12	Miller, Chris	QB	6-2	212	30	Oregon
26	Newman, Anthony	S	6-0	199	30	Oregon
95	Ottis, Brad	DT	6-4	271	23	Wayne St.
27	Parker, Anthony	CB	5-10	181	30	Arizona State
58	Phifer, Roman	LB	6-2	230	28	UCLA
97	Robinson, Gerald	DE	6-3	262	33	Auburn
92	Rocker, David	DT	6-4	267	27	Auburn
59	Rolling, Henry	LB	6-2	225	30	Nevada
82	Ross, Jermaine	WR	5-11	192	25	Purdue
78	Slater, Jackie	T	6-4	285	42	Jackson State
60	Stokes, Fred	DE	6-3	274	32	Georgia So.
	White, Dwayne	G	6-2	315	29	Alcorn State
96	Williams, Jay	DE	6-3	266	24	Wake Forest
89	Wright, Alexander	WR	6-0	195	28	Auburn
32	Wright, Toby	S	5-11	203	25	Nebraska
76	Young, Robert	DE	6-6	273	27	Miss. St.
10	Zendejas, Tony	K	5-8	165	36	Nevada

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Carter, Kevin	DE	6-6	274	Florida
2	Wiegert, Zach	OG	6-4	311	Nebraska
2	James, Jesse	OG	6-4	325	Mississippi State
3	McLaughlin, Steve	K	6-1	170	Arizona
4	Pinkney, Lovell	WR	6-4	248	Texas
5	Scurlock, Mike	CB	5-10	198	Arizona
7	McBurrows, Gerald	S	5-11	198	Kansas
	O'Berry, Herman	CB	5-9	182	Oregon
7	Miller, Bronzell	DE	6-4	245	Utah
7	Thomas, J.T.	WR	5-11	175	Arizona State

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Jerry Richardson built Hardee's. Son Mark Richardson watched closely. Bill Polian built the Buffalo Bills. Mike McCormack helped build the Seattle Seahawks. Dom Capers helped coach the New Orleans Saints into their first playoff game and helped coach the Pittsburgh Steelers back to the playoffs. Together, they take on the task of building the Carolina Panthers.



Richardson, who used to catch passes from Johnny Unitas when they were Baltimore Colts, has predicted a Super Bowl within 10 years, a tall order for any expansion team. But this is a man who built a restaurant dynasty from a hamburger stand, so don't tell him about impossible dreams. Already, the Panthers have shown the NFL new ways of doing things by selling "permanent seat licenses" to finance a new stadium. Rival NFL owners have scrambled to copy the brilliant idea of making fans pay twice for the privilege of attending a game.

With free agency plus a generous helping of draft picks, the Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars have fewer excuses to fail than did the last two expansion additions, Seattle and Tampa Bay. Even before the draft, the Panthers had assembled the nucleus of a defense that fits the style of Capers and even consists of familiar names. A linebacking foursome of Lamar Lathon, Darion Conner, Sam Mills, and Frank Stams is not the worst way to start out trying to stop somebody.

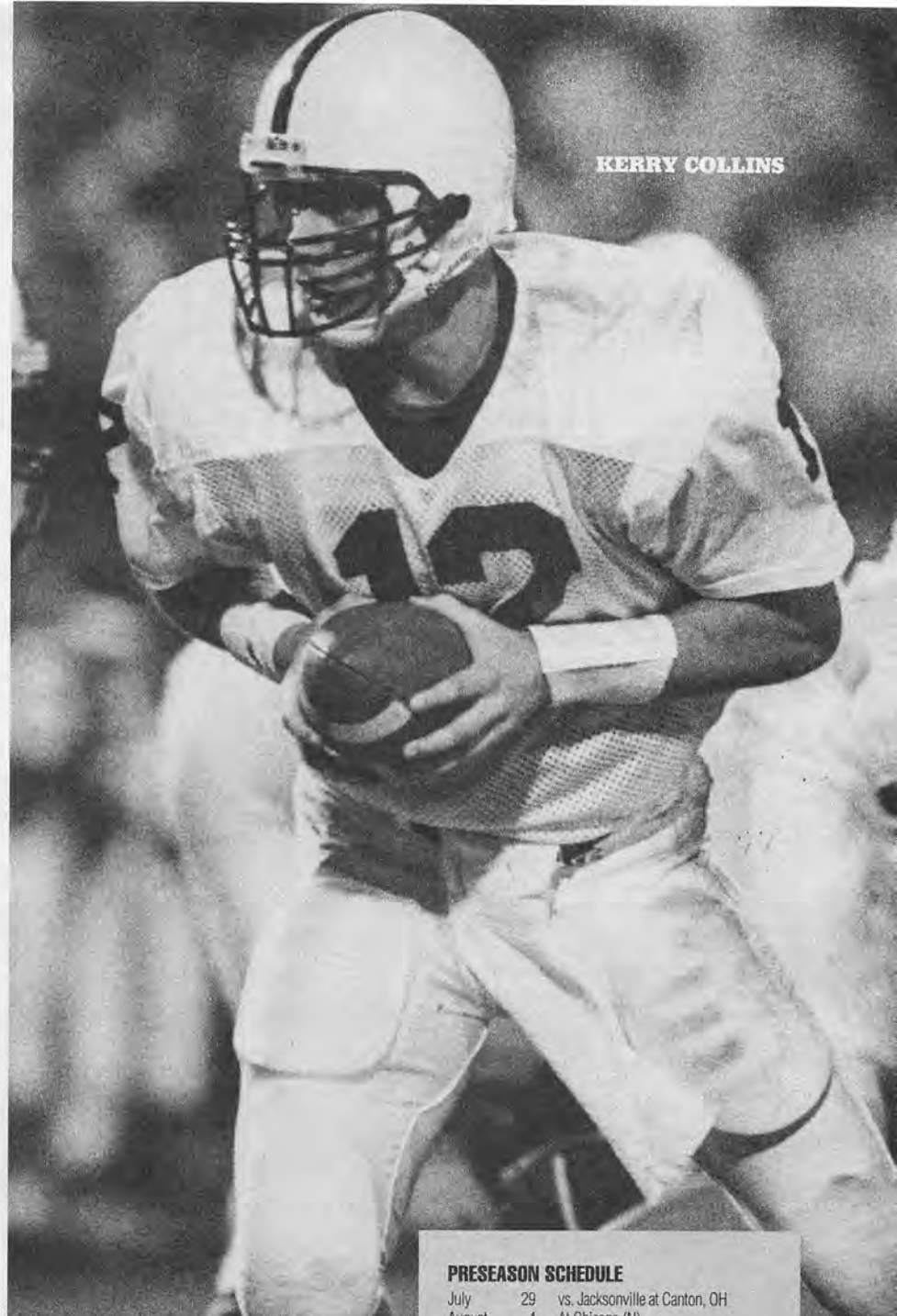
The Panthers were accused of overpaying for linemen such as Giants defensive tackle Mike Fox and Chiefs offensive tackle Derrick Graham (bonuses of \$2 million and \$1 million, respectively), but why save money now? After shelling out nearly \$200 million for the franchise, what's another million here and million there for players? They even gave place-kicker John Kasay a \$1 million bonus to jump from Seattle, demonstrating the audacious notion that they figure to get close enough to kick field goals.

At the college draft, the Panthers unveiled a plan that surprised some onlookers by trading the rights to Penn State running back Kijana Carter so they could take his teammate, quarterback Kerry Collins. From the start, the quarterback had been their target. Criticized for selling Carter's price short, Polian argued the only two considerations were to make reasonably sure they could still get Collins and to get a second-round pick high enough to select another starter. With the 36th choice, they took defensive lineman Shawn King of Northeast Louisiana. Because they had the 36th pick, they were able to deal their 32nd and 34th picks upward to 22nd and 29th and land cornerback Tyrone Poole of Fort Valley State and offensive tackle Blake Brockmeyer of Texas.

"We thought if we could get four first-rounders at almost any price, it would be a successful draft, and we did that," Polian said.

The key was Collins.

"I asked him, 'Young man, have you ever



KERRY COLLINS

heard of the Lombardi Trophy?" Jerry Richardson said. Within the first minute of his introductory press conference, Collins showed he got the message by mentioning "Super Bowl" six times. It is an unusual message for an expansion team to send this early, but the Panthers aren't interested in beating around the bush.

"This is the man we feel can help us reach our long-term goal," Richardson said.

"There's an axiom in football: You never pass up a quarterback," McCormack said.

Polian said McCormack reminded everybody he played on great Cleveland Browns teams with Jim Brown, the greatest running back ever, and they won only one championship because they didn't have a great quarterback. Added Capers: "When you look around the NFL and talk about the number of teams who do not have a topnotch quality quarterback and you look at the

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	29	vs. Jacksonville at Canton, OH
August	4	At Chicago (N)
	12	DENVER (N)
	19	At San Francisco
	26	N.Y. GIANTS

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	At Atlanta.....
	10	At Buffalo.....
	17	ST. LOUIS.....
	24	OPEN DATE.....
October	1	TAMPA BAY.....
	8	At Chicago.....
	15	N.Y. JETS.....
	22	NEW ORLEANS.....
	29	At New England.....
November	5	At San Francisco.....
	12	At St. Louis.....
	19	ARIZONA.....
	26	At New Orleans (N).....
December	3	INDIANAPOLIS.....
	10	SAN FRANCISCO.....
	17	ATLANTA.....
	24	At Washington.....

number of starters over 30 (16), it's astounding." To the charges that the Panthers could have extracted more picks for the rights to Carter, Polian said: "The goal is not to win the draft; it's to win on Sundays."

Collins joins a quarterback group that already included veteran backups Frank Reich from the Bills and Jack Trudeau from the Colts and Jets. Former Dolphin Doug Pederson and a sixth-rounder, Jerry Colquitt, give the Panthers as much depth, experience, and promise at the most important position as several rivals.

Who will run the ball? Any number of suspects. The Panthers figure they can plug in all kinds of bodies who will be able to give them at least a sample of the conservative, ball-control style they expect to play early in the franchise's development. Derrick Lassic of the Cowboys is looking for a chance to emerge from the shadow of Emmitt Smith. Ex-Brown Randy Baldwin, ex-Colt Dewell Brewer, ex-Bengal Eric Ball, and ex-Falcon Tony Smith all are looking for a chance. At fullback, ex-Bear Bob Christian and ex-Ram Howard Griffith have experience. The Panthers are so confident that somebody will come through, or that somebody will come loose from another team, that they did not draft a single prospect.

Neither do the Panthers draft receivers, relying instead on expansion draftees and free agents like Mark Carrier of the Browns, Richard Buchanan of the Rams, Willie Green of the Lions, Charles Swann of the Broncos, and Eric Guilford of the Vikings. At tight end, Polian signed ex-Bill Pete Metzelaars, an outstanding blocker for the running game, and another ex-Bill, Vince Marrow, along with ex-Redskin Kurt Haws.

On the offensive line, Brockermeyer is the projected starter at right tackle, with ex-Chief Derrick Graham on the left side. They are backed by ex-49er Harry Boatwain, who also plays guard. They drafted center Frank Garcia from Washington in the fourth round to compete with ex-Redskin Matt

Elliott and ex-Charger Curtis Whitley. Carlson Leomiti, Emerson Martin, Darryl Moore, Baron Rollins, Mike Finn, and Kevin Farkas all will compete for starting jobs.

King could start at right end in Capers' attacking 3-4 defense. The expensive signing of Fox provides a left end on first and second down and a left tackle on nickel downs. Ex-Bronco Greg Kragen is the nose tackle with Jeff Fields, Bill Goldberg, Mike Teeter, Shawn Price, Gerald Williams, and Mark Thomas all scrambling for playing time. Lathon and Conner give Capers his pass-rushing linebackers and Mills will offer a great locker room presence and on-field coach who will be invaluable. Paul Butcher, Dave Garnett, Andre Powell, and William Sims are backups

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Dom Capers, Head Coach
Vic Fangio, Defensive Coordinator
Joe Pendry, Offensive Coordinator
Don Breaux, Tight Ends
George Catavolos, Defensive Backs
Billy Davis, Outside Linebackers
Cary Godette, Defensive Line
Chick Harris, Running Backs
Jim McNally, Offensive Line
Chip Morton, Strength
Brad Seely, Special Teams
Kevin Steele, Linebackers
Richard Williamson, Wide Receivers



SAM MILLS

to the strongest unit on the team.

Poole's selection combined with their first choice in the expansion draft, ex-Patriot Rod Smith, puts emphasis at cornerback, where the Panthers know they will have to face the 49ers and the run-and-shoot Falcons twice a year. Ex-Steeler Tim McKyer and ex-Cardinal James Williams also are experienced corners. Ex-Oiler Bubba McDowell will anchor the safety position if healthy and ex-Saint Brett Maxie is the projected free safety.

Kasay and ex-Saint punter Tommy Barnhardt are solid kickers. Ex-Buc Vernon Turner and Baldwin are among the better kick-return

men and the whole roster is made up of players willing and eager to cover.

PANTHERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
	Bailey, Carlton	LB	6-3	235	31	No. Carolina
23	Baldwin, Randy	RB	5-10	216	28	Mississippi
42	Ball, Eric	RB	6-2	220	30	UCLA
6	Barnhardt, Tommy	P	6-2	207	33	No. Carolina
82	Beebe, Don	WR	5-11	180	31	Chadron State
65	Boatswain, Harry	T	6-4	295	27	New Haven
40	Brabham, Cary	S	6-0	195	25	Smu
26	Brewer, Dewell	RB	5-8	199	26	Oklahoma
89	Buchanan, Richard	WR	5-10	178	27	Northwestern
53	Butcher, Paul	LB	6-0	230	32	Wayne State
83	Carrier, Mark	WR	6-0	185	30	Nicholls State
44	Christian, Bob	RB	5-10	225	27	Northwestern
	Clifton, Gregory	WR	5-11	178	28	J. C. Smith
56	Conner, Darion	LB	6-2	245	28	Jackson State
43	Cuthbert, Randy	RB	6-2	226	26	Duke
52	Elliott, Matt	C	6-1	265	27	Michigan
79	Finn, Mike	T	6-4	300	28	Ar-Pine Bluff
36	Foggie, Fred	CB	6-0	200	27	Minnesota
93	Fox, Mike	DT	6-6	275	28	West Virginia
34	Fuller, Eddie	RB	5-9	198	28	Lsu
54	Garnett, Dave	LB	6-2	219	25	Stanford
32	Garrett, Judd	RB	6-2	214	29	Princeton
96	Goldberg, Bill	DT	6-2	266	29	Georgia
74	Graham, Derrick	T	6-4	306	29	Appalachian
33	Griffith, Howard	RB	6-0	226	28	Illinois
84	Guilford, Eric	WR	5-8	165	26	Arizona State
24	Haller, Alan	CB	5-11	186	25	Michigan St.
80	Hawkins, Steve	WR	6-5	207	25	W. Michigan
82	Haws, Kurt	TE	6-5	248	26	Utah
4	Kasay, John	K	5-10	189	26	Georgia
71	Kragen, Greg	NT	6-3	265	34	Utah State
25	Lassic, Derrick	RB	5-10	188	26	Alabama
57	Lathon, Lamar	LB	6-3	252	28	Houston
87	Marrow, Vince	TE	6-3	251	27	Toledo
39	Maxie, Brett	S	6-2	194	34	Texas So.
22	McKyer, Tim	CB	6-1	174	32	Tx.-Arlington
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	254	36	Wabash
51	Mills, Sam	LB	5-9	225	37	Montclair St.
81	Mims, David	WR	5-8	191	25	Baylor
76	Moore, Darryl	G	6-2	292	27	utep
31	O'neal, Brian	RB	6-0	233	26	Penn State
17	Pederson, Doug	QB	6-3	209	28	NE Louisiana
55	Powell, Andre	LB	6-1	226	27	Penn State
92	Price, Shawn	DE	6-5	260	26	Pacific
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-4	205	34	Maryland
63	Rodenhauser, Mark	C	6-5	280	35	Illinois State
90	Rodgers, Tyrone	DT	6-3	266	27	Washington
72	Rollins, Baron	G	6-4	335	25	La. Tech
16	Rose, Barry	WR	6-0	185	27	Wi.-Stevens Pt.
15	Ryans, Larry	WR	5-11	182	24	TCU
58	Sims, William	LB	6-3	265	25	SW Louisiana
21	Smith, Rod	CB	5-11	187	26	Notre Dame
28	Smith, Tony	RB	6-1	224	26	S. Mississippi
50	Slams, Frank	LB	6-2	230	30	Notre Dame
27	Swann, Charles	S	6-1	188	25	Indiana State
91	Teeter, Mike	DE	6-2	260	28	Michigan
75	Thomas, Mark	DE	6-5	273	27	N. C. State
85	Tillman, Lawyer	WR	6-5	230	30	Auburn
10	Trudeau, Jack	QB	6-3	227	33	Illinois
30	Turner, Vernon	RB	5-8	185	29	Carson-New.
12	Weir, Eric	TE	6-2	175	25	Vanderbilt
64	Whitley, Curtis	C	6-1	288	27	Clemson
98	Williams, Gerald	DE	6-3	288	32	Auburn
20	Williams, James	CB	5-10	185	29	Fresno State

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Collins, Kerry	QB	6-5	237	Penn State
1	Poole, Tyrone	CB	5-9	185	Fort Valley State
1	Brockermeyer, Blake	OT	6-5	300	Texas
2	King, Shawn	DE	6-3	279	NE Louisiana
4	Garcia, Frank	C	6-1	290	Washington
5	Senters, Michael	WR	6-0	180	Northwestern
5	Peterson, Andrew	OG	6-4	319	Washington
6	Strahan, Steve	DT	6-2	300	Baylor
6	Colquitt, Jerry	QB	6-3	209	Tennessee
7	Cota, Chad	S	6-0	184	Oregon
7	Reed, Michael	CB	5-9	176	Boston College



MARK CARRIER

NFC central

RASHAAN SALAAM

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Butler 87 points on 24 extra points and 21 field goals	14th
RUSHING—Tillman, 899 yards on 275 carries, 3.3 avg., 7 TDs	7th
PASSING—Walsh, 208 of 343 attempts for 2,078 yards and 10 TDs	9th
RECEIVING—Graham, 68 receptions for 944 yards, 13.9 avg., 4 TDs	15th
INTERCEPTIONS—Woolford, 5 for 30 yards, 6.0 average	75th
PUNTING—Gardocki, 76 punts, 37.8 avg., longest 57 yards	14th
PUNT RETURNS—Graham, 15 for 140 yards, 9.3 average	unranked
KICKOFF RETURNS—Lewis, 35 for 874 yards, 25.0 average	5th
SACKS—Armstrong, 7.5 sacks	114th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	4	CAROLINA (N)
	14	At Cleveland (N)
	20	ARIZONA (N)
	24	At Indianapolis (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	MINNESOTA	14-42
	11	GREEN BAY (N)	6-33
	17	At Tampa Bay	20-6
	24	At St. Louis	27-13
October	1	OPEN DATE	—
	8	CAROLINA	—
	15	At Jacksonville	—
	22	HOUSTON	—
	30	At Minnesota (N)	27-33
November	5	PITTSBURGH	—
	12	At Green Bay	3-40
	19	DETROIT	20-10
	26	At N.Y. Giants	—
December	4	At Detroit (N)	16-21
	10	At Cincinnati	—
	17	TAMPA BAY	21-9
	24	PHILADELPHIA	22-30

CHICAGO BEARS

When Bears' coach Dave Wannstedt was defensive coordinator of the Cowboys, they won the Super Bowl without a single member of his defense going to the Pro Bowl. Such all-for-one and one-for-all anonymity is a plus in team sports, Wannstedt believes. Last year's Bears were a similar no-name bunch that got to the playoffs and became the only NFC team to win a road game. They did it with a quarter-

back, Steve Walsh, who then became a free agent nobody wanted except the Bears.

The free agents and trade acquisitions Wannstedt has collected are not high-profile types. One, Andy Heck, did an outstanding job in anchoring the offensive line by stepping in at left tackle, not his best position. Another, Jeff Graham, wasn't needed in Pittsburgh and became invaluable as the go-to receiver in Chicago. Wannstedt is building a solid



foundation from which he intends to surprise the whole league someday soon. Call them overachievers, but call them smart overachievers.

They led the league in fewest penalties, one of the little details Wannstedt figures will someday translate into a big deal. To demonstrate how ready they are, they selected a most familiar name in the draft, Heisman Trophy winner Rashaan Salaam, who instantly becomes their most recognizable player. He also is expected to provide instant credibility to a running attack that is the key to Wannstedt's entire operation. Whether Erik Kramer or Walsh winds up the starting quarterback, his most important function will be to hand off to Salaam. The Bears are trying to run a combination-style offense patterned after both the 49ers and Cowboys, featuring the short passes of the 49ers and the power running of the Cowboys.

Kramer was supposed to be the starter last season until a shoulder injury paved the way for Walsh, who was 8-3 as a starter and wouldn't give up the job. Kramer again will get every opportunity to earn his more than

\$2 million salary, while Walsh tries to improve upon his \$1.5 million fee. Wannstedt knows he has all the disadvantages as well as the potential advantages of a two-headed monster at the most important position. Unless he wins every game, his decision of who plays quarterback will be wrong.

Salaam joins last year's fourth-round find, Raymont Harris, in a backfield that will attempt to get along without a conventional fullback. Harris thinks of himself as the "ultra" back, a do-everything threat the Bears agree will share the load with Salaam. The Bears picked up Anthony Johnson from the Jets and Darrell Thompson from the Packers to join third-down back Robert Green as backups. Salaam, who joined Marcus Allen, Mike Rozier, and Barry Sanders as 2,000-yard Heisman Trophy winners in college, now joins a team that boasts the greatest running backs in NFL history, from Red Grange and Bronko Nagurski to Gale Sayers and Walter Payton. It is a tall order for a 20-year-old, the same age as Payton was as a rookie 20 years ago.

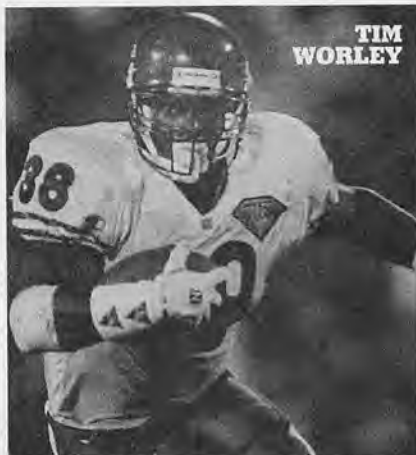
At receiver, the Bears added New England speedster Michael Timpson to pressure third-year man Curtis Conway and complement last year's trade find Graham, who was the club's best offensive player. Timpson and Conway will offer two deep threats the likes of which the Bears never have had, and Graham is a big-play intermediate target who came into his own in Chicago. Wannstedt thinks he got another outstanding prospect in speedy little Jack Jackson of Florida in the fourth round. Tight end is a concern because Chris Gedney has been hurt for two years, leaving the job to Keith Jennings and Ryan Wetnight. None

of them are great blockers, a shortcoming on a team that likes to run.

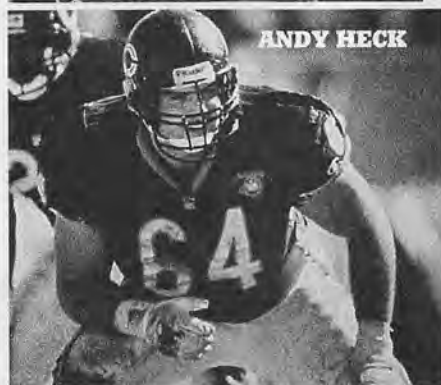
The offensive line proved better than expected last year but will need to rebound from the retirement of venerable left guard Mark Bortz. Left tackle Heck is solid, backed by former starter Troy Auzenne. Right tackle James Williams surprised everybody by coming through in his first season as a starter following a conversion from defense. The center is Jerry Fontenot and the right guard is Jay Leeuwenburg, with left guard a battle between Todd Perry and second-year prospect Marcus Spears with third-rounder Evan Pilgrim of BYU a factor. Todd Burger and Scott Adams provide depth.

Wannstedt's defense, 24th against the rush last season but 13th overall, undergoes changes in every area. A trade of left end Trace Armstrong, the team's top sacker with 7.5, means the coach has great confidence in the players who are left. It marks the second year in a row the Bears have jettisoned their top sackers, with Richard Dent leaving after 1993. Right end Alonzo Spellman will move to Armstrong's left end, where his physical style is better suited to stopping the run. This will open the right side to faster rushers Albert Fontenot and last year's No. 1 draft choice, John Thierry. Right tackle Chris Zorich and left tackle Carl Simpson will be spelled by second-year man Jim Flanigan and rookie second-rounder Patrick Riley of Miami.

Middle linebacker Dante Jones, the team's second-leading tackler, was



TIM WORLEY



ANDY HECK

released to make way for Joe Cain, who will move from the weak side to the middle. Cain led the club in tackles and his speed will enable him to roam sideline to sideline. Ron Cox is expected to win the weak-side spot, with Vinson Smith on the strong side. Barry Minter is a third-down backer and Myron Baker is in reserve along with third-rounder Sean Harris of Arizona.

Adding strong safety Marty Carter from Tampa Bay meant the Bears let capable veteran Shaun Gayle go to San Diego. The two are similar except for age. Gayle's leadership quality may be missed. Mark Carrier



ERIK KRAMER

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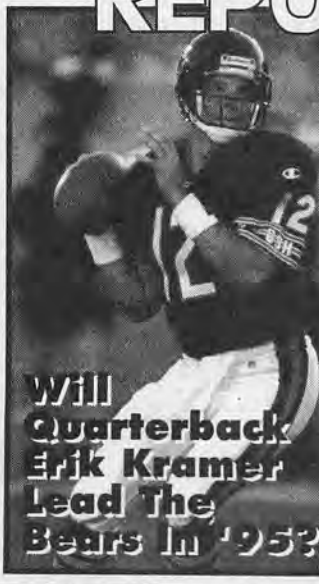
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returns at free safety with solid Donnell Woolford at left cornerback and fast Jeremy Lincoln on the right side. John Mangum and James Burton are backups, with Mangum a valuable nickel performer. Losing Mo Douglass to the Giants hurts the depth.

Punter Chris Gardocki jumped to the Colts, so the Bears used a second-round draft choice to land strong-legged Todd Sauerbrun from West Virginia. Not only did Sauerbrun average 48 yards a punt last year, his kickoffs are deep, and the Bears were one of only two teams that failed to have a single touchback on a kickoff. Place-kicker Kevin Butler is the last holdover from the 1985 Super Bowl champions. Jackson will boost a kick-return unit that lost Nate Lewis to Atlanta.

CHICAGO BEARS

Dave Wannstedt, Head Coach
Tony Wise, Asst. Head Coach/Offensive Line
Bob Slowik, Defensive Coordinator/
 Defensive Backs
Ron Turner, Offensive Coordinator/
 Quarterbacks
Danny Abramowicz, Special Teams
Clarence Brooks, Defensive Line
Ivan Fears, Wide Receivers
Carlos Mainord, Defensive Assistant
Dave McGinnis, Linebackers
Willie Peete, Running Backs
Mike Shula, Tight Ends

BEARS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
64	Adams, Scott	G	6-5	293	29	Georgia
70	Auzenne, Troy	T	6-7	290	27	California
91	Baker, Myron	LB	6-1	228	25	La. Tech
63	Bass, Robert	LB	6-1	231	25	Miami
17	Berger, Mitch	P	6-2	231	24	Colorado
63	Burger, Todd	G	6-3	296	26	Penn State
35	Burton, James	CB	5-9	181	25	Fresno State
6	Butler, Kevin	K	6-1	190	33	Georgia
59	Cain, Joe	LB	6-1	233	31	Oregon Tech
20	Carrier, Mark	S	6-1	192	28	USC
30	Carter, Antonio	RB	5-11	215	23	Minnesota
23	Carter, Marty	S	6-1	200	26	Mid Tenn. St.
43	Cobb, Trevor	RB	5-9	209	25	Rice
91	Collier, Ervin	DT	6-3	287	25	Florida A&M
80	Conway, Curtis	WR	6-0	193	25	USC
54	Cox, Ron	LB	6-2	235	28	Fresno State
24	Eilers, Pat	S	5-11	197	29	Notre Dame
65	Epps, Tony	NT	6-1	280	29	Memphis St.
68	Flanigan, Jim	DT	6-2	280	24	Notre Dame
96	Fontenot, Albert	DE	6-4	272	25	Baylor
67	Fontenot, Jerry	G	6-3	287	29	Texas A&M
84	Gedney, James	TE	6-5	262	25	Syracuse
81	Graham, Jeff	WR	6-2	196	27	Ohio State
22	Green, Robert	RB	5-8	209	25	Wm. & Mary
29	Harris, Raymond	RB	6-1	225	25	Ohio State
64	Heck, Andy	T	6-6	298	29	Notre Dame
33	Hoge, Merrill	RB	6-2	230	31	Idaho State
60	Ireland, Darwin	LB	5-11	240	25	Arkansas
85	Jennings, Keith	TE	6-4	270	30	Clemson
32	Johnson, Anthony	RB	6-0	222	28	Notre Dame
12	Kramer, Erik	QB	6-1	199	31	N.C. State
58	Leeuwenburg, Jay	T	6-3	290	27	Colorado
82	Lewis, Nate	WR	5-11	198	29	Oregon Tech
39	Lincoln, Jeremy	CB	5-10	180	27	Tennessee

26	Mangum, John	S	5-10	192	29	Alabama
36	Marshall, Anthony	S	6-1	203	25	LSU
9	Matthews, Shane	QB	6-3	192	26	Florida
88	McMurtry, Greg	WR	6-2	207	28	Michigan
24	Minfield, Kevin	CB	5-9	178	26	Arizona State
92	Minter, Barry	LB	6-2	242	26	Tulsa
83	Obee, Terry	WR	5-10	180	28	Oregon
75	Perry, Todd	T	6-5	310	25	Kentucky
18	Primus, Greg	WR	5-11	190	25	Colorado St.
19	Shedd, Kenny	WR	5-9	166	25	Northern Iowa
98	Simpson, Carl	DT	6-2	282	26	Florida State
55	Smith, Vinson	LB	6-2	247	30	East Carolina
79	Spears, Marcus	T	6-4	296	24	NW Louisiana
90	Spellman, Alonzo	DE	6-4	282	24	Ohio State
94	Thierry, John	DE	6-4	250	24	Alcorn State
26	Thompson, Darrell	RB	6-0	222	28	Minnesota
27	Tillman, Lewis	RB	6-0	204	30	Jackson State
83	Timpson, Michael	WR	5-10	175	29	Penn State
4	Walsh, Steve	QB	6-3	204	29	Miami
89	Wenight, Ryan	TE	6-2	235	25	Stanford
71	Williams, James	T	6-7	335	28	Cheyney State
21	Woolford, Donnell	CB	5-9	188	30	Clemson
38	Worley, Tim	RB	6-2	226	29	Georgia
97	Zorich, Chris	DT	6-1	275	27	Notre Dame

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Salaam, Rashaan	RB	6-1	226	Colorado
2	Riley, Patrick	DE	6-5	277	Miami
2	Sauerbrun, Todd	P	5-10	200	West Virginia
3	Harris, Sean	LB	6-3	240	Arizona
3	Pilgrim, Evan	OG	6-5	297	Brigham Young
4	Jackson, Jack	WR	5-8	171	Florida
6	Gates, Kenny	CB	5-11	176	Wisconsin
6	Reeves, Carl	DE	6-3	242	N.C. State
7	Cox, Jamal	LB	6-1	239	Georgia Tech

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MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Without Joe Montana around, Warren Moon becomes the oldest starting quarterback in the NFL by four years over Jim Kelly and John Elway. Moon will turn 39 in November. Only 40-year-old backup Vince Evans of the Raiders is older. Time is of the essence.

Coach Dennis Green has seen his Vikings get to the playoffs three out of three years as head coach. He has seen them win zero playoff games. They didn't get any farther with Moon at quarterback than they did the year before with Jim McMahon or the year before that with Rich Gannon. This season will be the first time Green hasn't changed quarterbacks going in.

Green thinks Moon has maybe two years left, but just in case, the Vikings drafted Kansas State's Chad May, the quarterback they rated behind only Steve McNair and Kerry Collins. Moon is coming off a 4,000-yard passing season, his first in three years, indicating his arm is a long way from falling off. But averaging 40 passes a game was not the way Green envisioned Moon's contribution. Moon left Houston's run-and-shoot in order to join a more conventional offense, one that ran the ball occasionally. It didn't happen. Although Moon was prolific, he was not very efficient, finishing seventh in the NFC in passer rating because his 18 touchdown passes were offset by 19 inter-

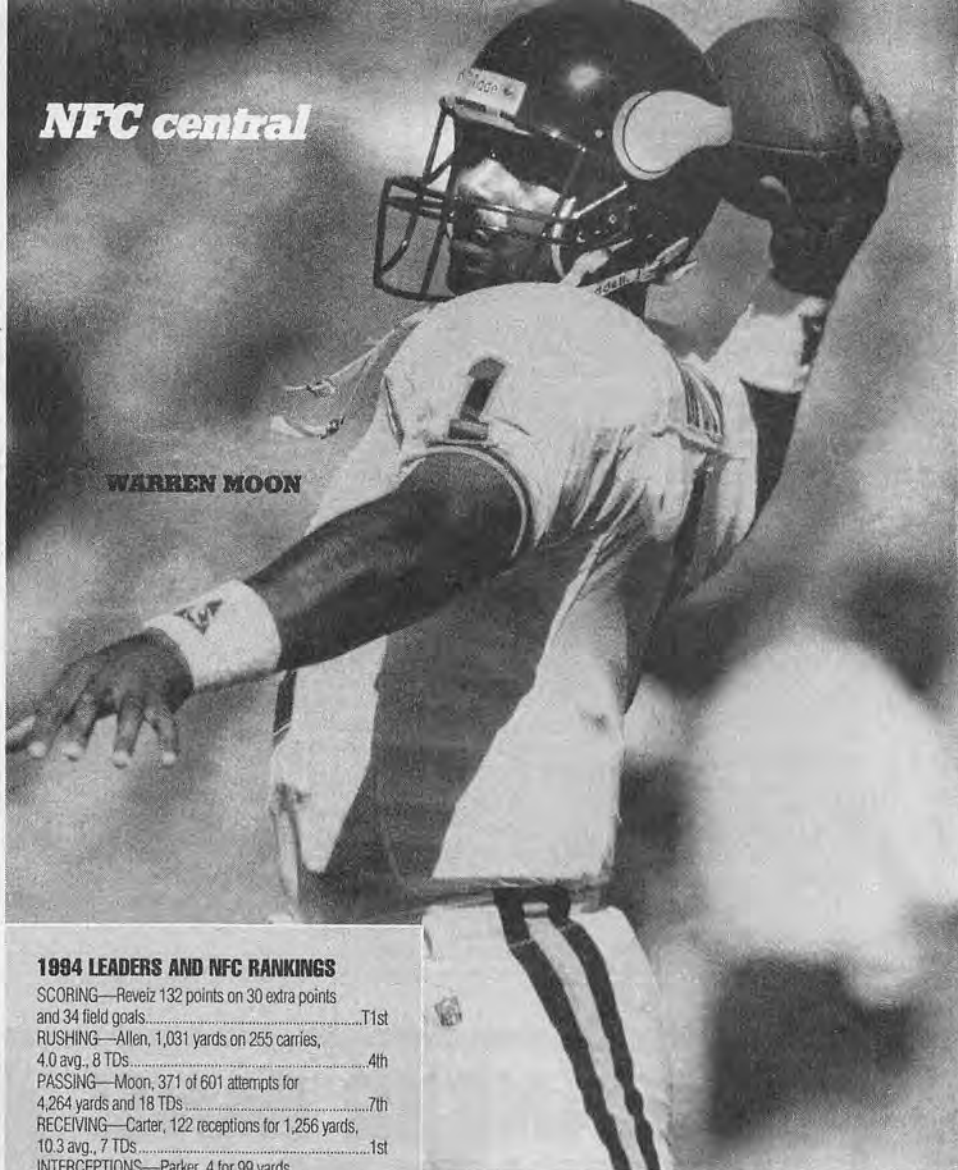


JOHN RANDLE

ceptions. The Vikings ranked last in the NFC in scoring touchdowns inside the 20-yard-line, a shortcoming that Moon was unable to correct, at least not by himself.

Cris Carter caught a record 122 passes, but only seven ended up in the end zone. Jake Reed caught 85 passes, and joined Carter in setting a record for an NFL tandem, but only four of his ended up in the end zone. Third receiver Qadry Ismail had the best ratio, with five of his 45 receptions going for touchdowns. With the same cast of receivers returning, joined by second-year threat David Palmer, Moon hopes to create a more dangerous attack. To do it, Green and offensive coordinator Brian Billick probably will have to commit more to the run than they did last year when their ratio favoring the pass was more lopsided than

NFC central



WARREN MOON

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Reveiz 132 points on 30 extra points and 34 field goals.....	T1st
RUSHING—Allen, 1,031 yards on 255 carries, 4.0 avg., 8 TDs.....	4th
PASSING—Moon, 371 of 601 attempts for 4,264 yards and 18 TDs.....	7th
RECEIVING—Carter, 122 receptions for 1,256 yards, 10.3 avg., 7 TDs.....	1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Parker, 4 for 99 yards, 24.8 average, 2 TDs.....	T12th
Glenn, 4 for 55 yards, 13.8 average.....	T12th
PUNTING—Saxon, 77 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 67 yards.....	5th
PUNT RETURNS—Palmer, 30 for 193 yards, 6.4 average.....	11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Ismail, 35 for 807 yards, 23.1 average.....	10th
SACKS—Randle, 13.5 sacks.....	T1st

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	7	At San Diego
	12	At New England (N)
	18	LOS ANGELES (N)
	26	KANSAS CITY

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	At Chicago	42-14
	10	DETROIT	10-3
	17	DALLAS (N)	—
	24	At Pittsburgh	—
October	1	OPEN DATE	—
	8	HOUSTON	—
	15	At Tampa Bay	36-13
	22	At Green Bay	10-16
	30	CHICAGO (N)	33-27
November	5	GREEN BAY	13-10
	12	At Arizona	7-17
	19	NEW ORLEANS	21-20
	23	At Detroit	19-41
December	3	TAMPA BAY	17-20
	9	CLEVELAND	—
	18	At San Francisco (N)	21-14
	24	At Cincinnati	—

1994 SCORES



CHRIS CARTER

Follow the 1995 Minnesota Vikings as They Defend Their Central Division Title!

The 1995 NFL football season will be the year the Minnesota Vikings take control in their quest to go to Tempe, Arizona for Super Bowl XXX. Two first round draft choices again this year, added to an already strong football team, should make for an exciting season. Join in the excitement with a subscription to **Bob Lurtsema's Viking Update**, the official publication of the Minnesota Vikings.

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any team this side of Atlanta. At 268 pounds, tight end Adrian Cooper could pass for a third tackle. Also at 268, second-year tight end Andrew Jordan is no pushover. Both are good receivers, with 67 catches between them, none of them touchdowns.

Cooper and Jordan are good bookends for a huge offensive line that just got bigger with the addition of Ohio State's 346-pound Korey Stringer. If Stringer can play right tackle as well as Todd Steussie played left tackle last year as a rookie, regular right tackle Chris Hinton will move to right guard opposite left guard Randall McDaniel. If Stringer is slow developing, ex-Cardinal Rick Cunningham will start at right tackle to enable Hinton to move anyway. This will give the Vikings the two most prominent guards in football over the last decade. Center Jeff Christy is the beneficiary. Reggie McElroy, David Dixon, and Mike Reuther are backups.

Terry Allen ran for 1,031 yards last season, proof that the Vikings don't entirely ignore the run, but Allen's job probably will belong to Robert Smith this year. Smith carried only 31 times in his second season, almost a one-third reduction from his promising rookie showing. Amp Lee is the third-down back with enough skill to play more regularly if Green allows. One of the most effective change-of-pace runners in the league is unsung Scottie Graham, who can soften up the middle in a hurry.

After losing all-pro defensive tackle Henry Thomas and defensive line coach John Teerlinck to the Lions, defense becomes a concern for Green. The Vikings were fifth in the league last year—and No. 1 against the run—playing a scheme designed to pres-

Roy Barker is the left end opposite James Harris, but Alexander is expected to challenge for a starting job and will line up behind Harris at first. Fernando Smith has possibilities as a second-year rusher and Martin Harrison is in reserve.

Jack Del Rio is a Pro Bowl middle line-backer coming off a big-time playmaking year of 179 tackles, 11 passes defended, three interceptions, and two sacks. He will be joined by ex-Buccaneer and ex-Lion Broderick Thomas, who is bigger than Jenkins and capable of providing the kind of outside pressure the Vikings need. Ed McDaniel led the team in tackles for loss from the other line-backer spot. The position is backed up by Ashley Sheppard, Jeff Brady, William Sims, and rookies John Solomon, and Jose White.

Second-year cornerback Dewayne Washington is the only holdover in the secondary. He will be joined by ex-Charger and ex-Brown Donald Frank, who replaces Anthony Parker (Rams). Second-round draft choice Corey Fuller of Florida State and Malik Boyd may challenge. At strong safety, Harlon Barnett came from the Patriots to replace Todd Scott, who went to the Jets. At free safety, Charles Mincy arrived from Kansas City to replace Vencie Glenn, who

was traded to the Giants. Second-rounder Orlando Thomas of Southwestern Louisiana will get plenty of action.

The best thing about stalling inside the 20 is having a place-kicker as good as Fuad Reveiz. With one more field goal Reveiz will tie the consecutive mark of 29 by San Diego's John Carney. Punter Mike Saxon is coming off a good year and Ismail and Palmer provide dangerous kick-return capability.

VIKINGS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
	Alex, Keith	G	6-4	307	27	Texas A&M
21	Allen, Terry	RB	5-10	197	28	Clemson
92	Barker, Roy	DE	6-4	280	27	No. Carolina
42	Barnett, Harlon	S	5-11	200	29	Michigan St.
96	Boudreaux, Frank	DT	6-5	273	26	Northwestern
36	Boyd, Malik	CB	5-10	175	25	Southern
52	Brown, Richard	LB	6-3	240	30	San Diego St.
80	Carter, Kris	WR	6-3	198	30	Ohio State
62	Christy, Jeff	C	6-3	277	27	Pittsburgh
87	Cooper, Adrian	TE	6-5	268	28	Oklahoma
64	Cunningham, Rick	T	6-7	320	29	Texas A&M
75	Dalney, Bernard	G	6-5	331	27	Tennessee
34	Davis, Brian	CB	6-2	190	32	Nebraska
55	Del Rio, Jack	LB	6-4	243	33	USC
71	Dixon, David	G	6-5	350	27	Arizona State
29	Evans, Charles	RB	6-1	228	29	Clark Atlanta
47	Frank, Donald	CB	6-0	192	30	Win. Salem
46	Gerak, John	TE	6-3	285	26	Penn State
31	Graham, Scottie	RB	5-9	215	27	Ohio State
24	Griffith, Robert	CB	5-11	200	25	San Diego St.
23	Hammonds, Shelly	CB	5-9	183	25	Penn State
99	Harris, James	DE	6-4	270	28	Temple
91	Harrison, Martin	LB	6-5	256	28	Washington
78	Hinton, Chris	G	6-4	305	34	Northwestern
82	Ismail, Qadry	WR	6-0	192	25	Syracuse
25	Jackson, Alfred	CB	6-0	180	28	San Diego St.
14	Johnson, Brad	QB	6-5	221	27	Florida State
	Jones, Donald	LB	6-0	231	27	Washington
	Jones, Shawn	S	6-1	200	26	Georgia Tech
89	Jordan, Andrew	TE	6-4	268	24	W. Carolina
83	Jordan, Steve	TE	6-3	242	35	Brown
32	Lee, Amp	RB	5-11	200	24	Florida State
61	Lindsay, Everett	T	6-4	296	25	Mississippi
58	McDaniel, Ed	LB	5-11	230	27	Clemson
64	McDaniel, Randall	G	6-3	275	31	Arizona State
60	McElroy, Reggie	T	6-6	290	36	West Texas St.
37	McGriggs, Lamar	S	6-3	210	28	W. Illinois
33	Mincy, Charles	S	5-11	197	26	Washington
1	Moon, Warren	QB	6-3	212	39	Washington
68	Morris, Mike	C	6-5	284	35	NE Missouri
85	Novoselsky, Brent	TE	6-2	237	30	Pennsylvania
22	Palmer, David	RB	5-8	167	23	Alabama
93	Randle, John	DT	6-1	270	28	Texas A&I
86	Reed, Jake	WR	6-3	212	28	Grambling
7	Reveiz, Fuad	K	5-11	223	33	Tennessee
65	Ruether, Mike	C	6-4	288	33	Texas
12	Salisbury, Sean	QB	6-5	217	33	USC
4	Saxon, Mike	P	6-3	202	33	San Diego St.
59	Sheppard, Ashley	LB	6-3	243	27	Clemson
95	Smith, Fernando	DE	6-6	270	24	Jackson State
26	Smith, Robert	RB	6-0	195	24	Ohio State
73	Steussie, Todd	T	6-6	298	25	California
51	Thomas, Broderick	LB	6-4	250	29	Nebraska
98	Tuaoilo, Esera	NT	6-2	275	27	Oregon State
81	Walsh, Chris	WR	6-1	185	27	Stanford
20	Washington, D.	CB	5-11	192	23	N. C. State

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Alexander, Derrick	DE	6-4	266	Florida State
1	Stringer, Korey	OT	6-4	346	Ohio State
2	Thomas, Orlando	S	6-2	209	SW Louisiana
2	Fuller, Corey	CB	5-10	197	Florida State
4	May, Chad	QB	6-1	220	Kansas State
5	Stewart, James	RB	6-2	239	Miami
6	Solomon, John	LB	6-2	233	Sam Houston St.
7	White, Jose	DE	6-3	260	Howard
7	Fisk, Jason	DT	6-2	280	Stanford



sure the passer. The Vikings also lost end Robert Harris to the Giants, linebacker Carlos Jenkins to the Rams, and three-fourths of their starting secondary, so a rebuilding job is in store for coordinator Tony Dungy. He can start with No. 1 draft choice Derrick Alexander of Florida State, an outside pass rusher who should make up for the void the Vikings never filled when Chris Doleman left. All-pro John Randle got 13.5 sacks from his tackle spot, easing the idea of losing Thomas, but he will need help from elsewhere. Esera Tuaoilo will play Thomas's nose tackle spot, backed by ex-Colt Thomas Sims.



GREEN BAY PACKERS

After three straight years of 9-7 records, the Packers find themselves desperately trying to stay even. Losing Sterling Sharpe to an unfortunate neck injury was at least one step back. Losing more free agents than they signed left them scrambling at more than one position. Sharpe's loss cannot be overdramatized.

Few teams relied so heavily on one player to provide the offensive momentum. He was the Packers' Barry Sanders, their Emmitt Smith, their Michael Jordan.

"People ask how we're going to replace him, and the answer is we can't," general manager Ron Wolf said.

They tried to sign Andre Rison and lost out to Cleveland. They tried to sign Pittsburgh tight end Eric Green and then Dallas tight end Jay Novacek to alleviate another problem they have had since Jackie Harris defected for Tampa Bay. They traded with Miami for receiver Mark Ingram and tight end Keith Jackson and Jackson balked. They tried to trade for Jets receiver Rob Moore, but lost out to the Cardinals.

As if losing Sharpe weren't enough, the Packers also lost pass rusher Bryce Paup and two other tight ends, Reggie Johnson and Ed West. They let go of disappointing cornerback Terrell Buckley, the fourth pick in the 1992 draft. Suddenly, this is not the promising team Reggie White joined two

years ago when the free agency era opened. Four times in the last two years, they have traveled to Dallas to play the Cowboys, twice in the playoffs, and have come home losers each time.

On the bright side, they still have their quarterback. Brett Favre rebounded in 1994 with his best season yet, breaking the bothersome habit of throwing balls up for grabs. Now, a greater challenge looms. Can he repeat his performance without Sharpe on the other end of his passes? Favre became so established in 1994 that the Packers were willing to depart with promising backup Mark Brunell to the Jacksonville Jaguars on the eve of the draft, leaving only Ty Detmer in reserve. They drafted Alabama's Jay Barker in the fifth round. Favre, criticized for the number of interceptions he threw in 1993, compiled the third-lowest interception percentage in the NFC in 1994 and also the third-lowest percentage in Packer history. His 33 touchdown passes were a Green Bay record, 14 more than his own career high. His take-charge leadership was demonstrated in a critical game against the Falcons when he ran nine yards for a touchdown in the closing seconds.

This year, Favre will have to be more resourceful than ever because he won't have Sharpe to rely on. Robert Brooks is an outstanding prospect who will move to Sharpe's spot after a career-high 58 receptions. He will play opposite Ingram, provided Anthony Morgan doesn't make a run at Ingram's job. The Packers drafted Antonio

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Sharpe, 108 points on 18 touchdowns	
receptions.....	5th
RUSHING—Bennett, 623 yards on 178 carries, 3.5 avg., 5 TDs.....	12th
PASSING—Favre, 363 of 582 attempts for 3,882 yards and 33 TDs.....	3rd
RECEIVING—Sharpe, 94 receptions for 1,119 yards, 11.9 avg., 18 TDs.....	4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Buckley, 5 for 38 yards, 7.6 average.....	T5th
PUNTING—Hentrich, 81 punts, 41.4 avg., longest 70 yards.....	9th
PUNT RETURNS—Brooks, 40 for 352 yards, 8.8 average.....	7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Harris, 29 for 618 yards, 21.3 average.....	12th
SACKS—Jones, 10.5 sacks.....	T5th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	vs. New Orleans at Madison, WI
	13	At Pittsburgh
	19	INDIANAPOLIS
	25	WASHINGTON (N)

1995 SCHEDULE 1994 SCORES

September	3	ST. LOUIS.....	24-17
	11	At Chicago (N).....	33-6
	17	N.Y. GIANTS.....	—
	24	At Jacksonville (N).....	—
October	1	OPEN DATE.....	—
	8	At Dallas.....	31-42
	15	DETROIT.....	38-30
	22	MINNESOTA.....	16-10
	29	At Detroit.....	31-34
November	5	At Minnesota.....	10-13
	12	CHICAGO.....	40-3
	19	At Cleveland.....	—
	26	TAMPA BAY.....	30-3
December	3	CINCINNATI.....	—
	10	At Tampa Bay (N).....	34-19
	16	At New Orleans.....	—
	24	PITTSBURGH.....	—

Freeman of Virginia Tech in the third round and Charlie Simmons of Georgia Tech in the sixth round in hopes that sheer numbers will alleviate the loss of Sharpe Jackson appears to be in the waning years of a productive career. Former Eagles teammate White has had to talk him into moving from Miami to Green Bay, where he will become the instant go-to guy unless Mark Chmura suddenly blossoms as more than a backup. There are plenty of opportunities for anybody who likes to catch, because few teams like to pass more.

Losing tailback Reggie Cobb in the expansion draft and getting shut out of the running back derby early in the college draft leaves the Packers scrambling at another position. Fullback Edgar Bennett might have to play both fullback and tailback and happens to be well-suited for either. He led the club in rushing with 623 yards and set a team record for most receptions (78) by a running back. He probably was the club's most consistent offensive performer last year, Sharpe and Favre included. Second-year men LeShon Johnson and Dorsey Levens will be joined by rookies William Henderson of North Carolina and Travis Jervey of The Citadel, along with anyone else who wants a tryout. The Packers wanted to draft a running back in the first round, but they were all gone by their turn.

Changes on the offensive line are in store with help expected from last year's No. 1 draft choice, Aaron Taylor, who started the

team's bad luck with an injury in his first minicamp. He will replace Guy McIntyre at left guard, with Harry Galbreath at right guard and Frank Winters in the middle. Left tackle Ken Ruettgers begins his 11th season. Right tackle Joe Sims went to Philadelphia, leaving the spot for Paul Hutchins, who should be able to fill it with his 335 pounds. Earl Dotson is in reserve, along with fourth-round pick Jeff Miller of Mississippi, ex-Bill Jerry Crafts, and ex-49er Brian Bollinger.



White continues to hold the fort on a defense that ranked sixth last season under coordinator Fritz Shurmur. Losing Paup puts extra pressure on White and Sean Jones (10.5 sacks) to get after the passer. Wayne Simmons will replace Paup at linebacker. At defensive tackle, the Packers drafted Darius



Holland in round two to replace the retired Steve McMichael beside John Jurkovic. Gabe Wilkins is expected to recover slowly from knee surgery and Don Davey left for Jacksonville. Fred Strickland and George Koonce join Simmons at linebacker, with third-round newcomer Brian Williams of USC expected to lend depth with James Willis.

Arizona State's Craig Newsome was the No. 1 draft pick, selected to replace Buckley on the left side. The Packers lost valuable backup Corey Harris to Seattle, but should be solid on the right side with the rapidly developing Doug Evans and on the inside

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with safeties LeRoy Butler and George Teague, who both were limited by unusual illnesses last season. Lenny McGill is recovering from knee surgery and could provide a much-needed boost as the nickel back. KeShon Johnson is an experienced reserve.

Craig Hentrich took over the punting last year and averaged a sensational 45.5 yards during the latter half. His exceptional leg results in great hang time. Place-kicker Chris Jacke had an off year, making only three of eight attempts beyond 40 yards. With Brooks needed as the go-to receiver, the Pack needs somebody to step forward as a return specialist.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Mike Holmgren, Head Coach
 Sherman Lewis, Offensive Coordinator
 Fritz Shurmur, Defensive Coordinator
 Larry Brooks, Defensive Line
 Nolan Cromwell, Special Teams
 Gil Haskell, Wide Receivers
 Johnny Holland, Defensive Assistant
 Kent Johnston, Strength & conditioning
 Jim Lind, Linebackers
 Tom Lovat, Offensive Line
 Steve Mariucci, Quarterbacks
 Marty Mornhinweg, Offensive Assistant
 Andy Reid, Tight Ends/Assistant Offensive Line
 Harry Sydney, Running Backs
 Bob Valesente, Defensive Backs

PACKERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
51	Alipate, Tuineau	LB	6-1	245	28	Washington St.
87	Bartrum, Mike	TE	6-4	233	26	Marshall
34	Bennett, Edgar	RB	6-0	216	27	Florida State
70	Bollinger, Brian	G	6-5	285	27	No. Carolina
87	Brooks, Robert	WR	6-0	174	26	So. Carolina
71	Brown, Gary	T	6-4	288	25	Georgia Tech
93	Brown, Gilbert	NT	6-2	330	25	Kansas
36	Butler, Leroy	S	6-0	193	27	Florida State
59	Carter, Bernard	LB	6-2	245	24	East Carolina
28	Chaffey, Pat	RB	6-1	220	29	Oregon State
89	Chmura, Mark	TE	6-5	240	27	Boston Col.
66	Crafts, Jerry	T	6-6	351	28	Louisville
85	Crawford, Keith	WR	6-2	180	25	Howard Payne
40	Dean, Charlie	TE	6-3	245	25	Florida
11	Detmer, Ty	QB	6-0	190	28	BYU
72	Dolson, Earl	T	6-3	315	25	Texas A&I
63	Dukes, Jamie	C	6-1	285	32	Florida State
33	Evans, Doug	CB	6-0	188	26	La. Tech
78	Fagan, Tommy	DE	6-5	257	25	NE Louisiana
4	Favre, Brett	QB	6-2	218	26	S. Mississippi
76	Galbreath, Harry	G	6-1	275	31	Tennessee
58	Hamilton, Ruffin	LB	6-1	230	25	Tulane
17	Hentrich, Craig	P	6-3	200	25	Notre Dame
70	Hope, Charles	G	6-3	303	26	Central St.
67	Hutchins, Paul	T	6-4	335	26	W. Michigan
82	Ingram, Mark	WR	5-11	190	30	Michigan St.
13	Jacke, Chris	K	6-0	200	30	Utah
88	Jackson, Keith	TE	6-2	254	31	Oklahoma
42	Johnson, LeShon	RB	5-11	203	25	No. Illinois
96	Jones, Sean	DE	6-7	275	33	Northeastern
80	Jordan, Charles	WR	5-10	170	26	L. Beach City
64	Jurkovic, John	NT	6-2	285	28	E. Illinois
53	Koonce, George	LB	6-1	238	27	East Carolina
97	LaBounty, Matt	DE	6-3	254	27	Oregon
81	Lamb, Brad	WR	5-10	177	28	Anderson
25	Levens, Dorsey	RB	6-1	229	26	Georgia Tech

22	McGill, Lenny	CB	6-1	194	25	Arizona State
60	McGuire, Gene	C	6-2	284	25	Notre Dame
62	McIntyre, Guy	G	6-3	276	35	Georgia
90	McMichael, Steve	DT	6-2	268	38	Texas
88	Mickens, Terry	WR	6-0	203	25	Florida A&M
47	Mitchell, Roland	CB	5-11	195	32	Texas Tech
81	Morgan, Anthony	WR	6-1	195	28	Tennessee
39	Prior, Mike	S	6-0	215	32	Illinois State
75	Ruettgers, Ken	T	6-6	290	33	So. California
46	Satterfield, Brian	RB	5-11	208	26	No. Alabama
19	Schroeder, Bill	WR	6-3	200	25	Wis.-La Crosse
59	Simmons, Wayne	LB	6-2	240	26	Clemson
84	Stegall, Mill	WR	6-0	184	26	Miami (OH)
55	Strickland, Fred	LB	6-2	245	29	Purdue
79	Taylor, Aaron	T	6-3	304	23	Notre Dame
31	Teague, George	S	6-1	187	25	Alabama
49	Thomason, Jeff	TE	6-4	233	27	Oregon
23	Walker, Sammy	CB	5-11	203	27	Texas Tech
92	White, Reggie	DE	6-5	290	34	Tennessee
44	White, Russell	RB	5-11	216	25	California
98	Wilkins, Gabe	DE	6-4	292	24	Gar-Webb
56	Willis, James	LB	6-1	235	23	Auburn
83	Wilner, Jeff	TE	6-4	253	24	Wesleyan
35	Wilson, Ray	S	6-2	202	24	New Mexico
52	Winters, Frank	G	6-3	290	32	W. Illinois

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Newsome, Craig	CB	5-11	185	Arizona State
3	Holland, Darius	DT	6-5	303	Colorado
3	Henderson, William	RB	6-1	246	North Carolina
3	Williams, Brian	LB	6-1	238	USC
3	Freeman, Antonio	WR	6-0	195	Virginia Tech
4	Miller, Jeff	OG	6-4	321	Mississippi
5	Barker, Jay	QB	6-2	209	Alabama
5	Jervey, Travis	RB	6-0	225	Citadel
6	Simmons, Charlie	WR	6-3	214	Georgia Tech

You won't find a stadium with a roof on top, you won't see a field of plastic grass that is immune to dirt and mud. Packers fans everywhere know the game of football was meant to be played the way the Packers play. And if last season was any indication, the Packers' return to glory is closer than you think.

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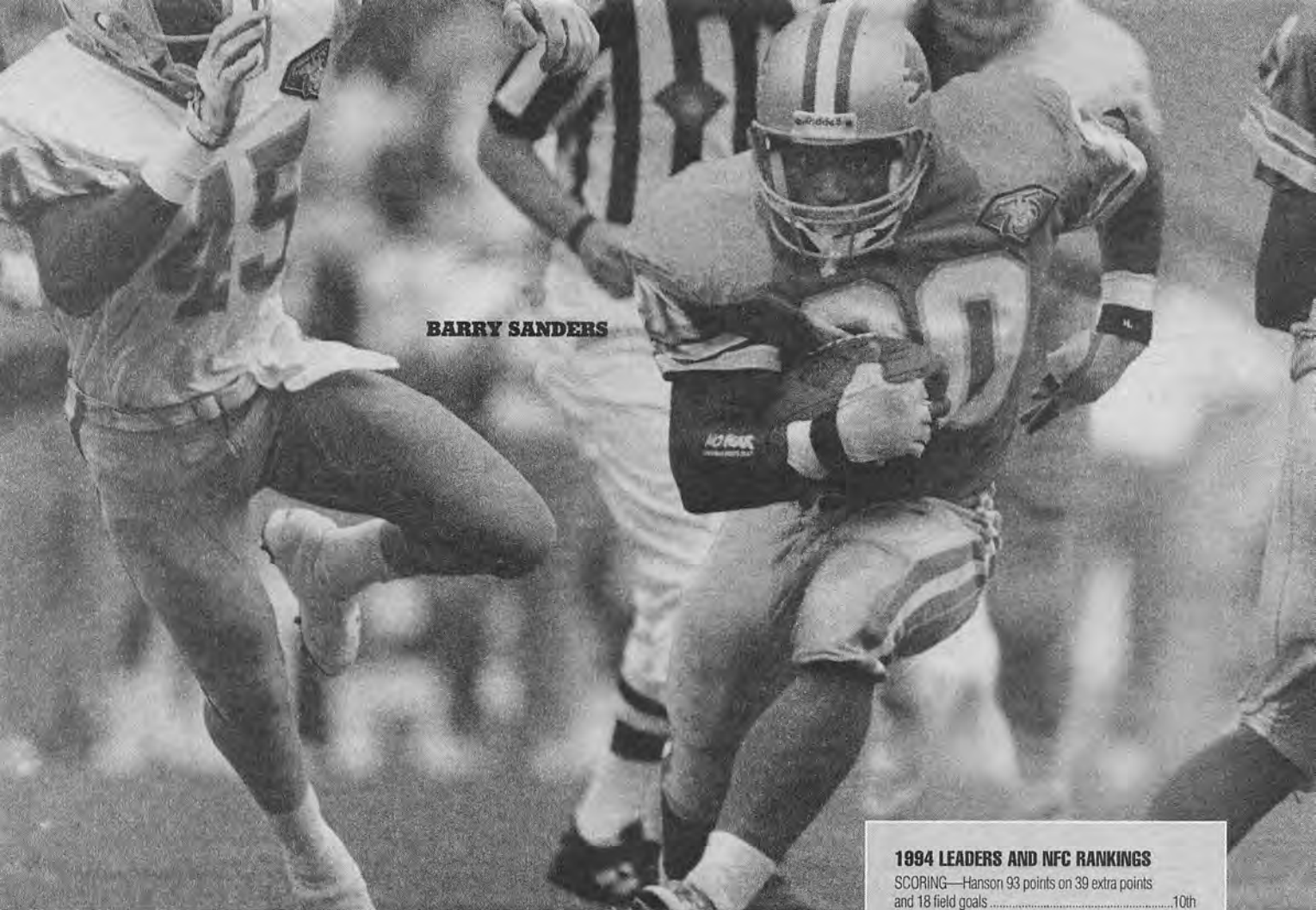
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BARRY SANDERS

DETROIT LIONS

The pressure is on in Detroit. At least that's what coach Wayne Fontes hopes to see from new defensive tackle Henry Thomas and new

No. 1 draft choice Luther Elliss. Former Viking Thomas is this year's Scott Mitchell, this year's answer to whatever is keeping the Lions from glory.



Thomas is supposed to provide what Pat Swilling couldn't when he was acquired from the Saints two years ago: heat on the quarterback. Swilling was joined last year by former Buccaneers linebacker Broderick Thomas, but still the Lions finished a disappointing 24th on defense. That's why Fontes hired defensive line coach John Teerlinck from the Vikings and made him assistant head coach in charge of defense. That's why the Lions drafted Elliss to play for Teerlinck, who has a reputation for turning even the most unlikely prospects into pass-rushing demons.

Mitchell is supposed to resume his duties as the savior quarterback after a broken bone in his right, non-throwing, hand knocked him out of last season just in time to set up a dramatic rescue by David Krieg, who passed the Lions to the playoffs. All this is by way of a continuing effort to surround Barry Sanders with enough help to get the Lions off the playoff treadmill. Two years in a row, they have lost in the wild-card round to

the Packers, who have then lost to the Cowboys. Four years ago, the Cowboys lost to the Lions, who advanced to the NFC title game only to regress.

Time is of the essence, for Fontes and for Sanders, who only looks like he could run forever. Coming off his sixth and best season, Sanders is alarmingly close to racking up the kind of high mileage that inevitably cuts short the careers of running backs. Of course, Sanders is no mere mortal, as last season's numbers attest. He chased 2,000 yards until the final week, settling for 1,883. He had 13 runs of more than 25 yards, nearly one a game, and that included six runs of 60 yards or more. He was football's equivalent to baseball's home run kings. For perspective, the 49ers' Steve Young threw only four passes that gained more than 60 yards. The Lions have done little to alleviate the offensive pressure placed on Sanders, apparently satisfied that he will continue to get even better. Backup Derrick Moore signed with the 49ers—leaving only Eric Lynch—and sensational kick returner Mel Gray signed in Houston. It was Gray who provided field position and a scoring threat that scared opponents almost as much as Sanders.

Herman Moore is a big-time wide receiver poised to replace the Packers' departed Sterling Sharpe as one of the superstars of the league. He set a Detroit record for a receiver with 72 catches and went over 1,000 yards (1,173) for the first time in his career. He tied a club mark by catching at least one touchdown pass in six consecu-

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Hanson 93 points on 39 extra points and 18 field goals	10th
RUSHING—Sanders, 1,883 yards on 331 carries, 5.7 avg., 7 TDs	1st
PASSING—Krieg, 131 of 212 attempts for 1,629 yards and 14 TDs	2nd
RECEIVING—Moore, 72 receptions for 1,173 yards, 16.3 avg., 11 TDs	14th
INTERCEPTIONS—Massey, 4 for 25 yards, 6.3 average	T12th
PUNTING—Montgomery, 63 punts, 44.2 avg., longest 64 yards	3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Gray, 21 for 233 yards, 11.1 average	3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Gray, 45 for 1,276 yards, 28.4 average, 3 TDs	1st
SACKS—Thomas, 7.0 sacks	T17th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	4	At New England (N)
	10	JACKSONVILLE (NO)
	17	CINCINNATI (N)
	25	At New Orleans (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	At Pittsburgh	.....
	10	At Minnesota	.....3-10
	17	ARIZONA	.....
	25	SAN FRANCISCO (N)	.....21-27
October	1	OPEN DATE	.....
	8	CLEVELAND	.....
	15	At Green Bay	.....30-38
	22	At Washington	.....
	29	GREEN BAY	.....34-31
November	5	At Atlanta	.....31-28
	12	TAMPA BAY	.....14-9
	19	At Chicago	.....10-20
	23	MINNESOTA	.....41-19
December	4	CHICAGO (N)	.....21-16
	10	At Houston	.....
	17	JACKSONVILLE	.....
	23	At Tampa Bay	.....14-24

tive games, finishing with 11 in all. Of his 72 receptions, 54 went for first downs. Opposite Moore is the able and dangerous Brett Perriman, who caught 56 passes for four touchdowns, continuing a consistent pattern into his fifth season in Detroit. His average of 13.6 yards was a high for his Lions' career. Last year's No. 1 rookie, Johnnie Morton, got very little action but showed enough that the Lions figure he is ready for more extended play.

Drafting a tight end in the third round, David Sloan of New Mexico, and another one in the sixth, Kevin Hickman of Navy, indicates the Lions are again ready to concentrate on a more conventional offense under coordinator Tom Moore. The key, of course, is Mitchell, who must live down a disappointing inaugural season that ended in the ninth game. After helping the Lions win their opener against Atlanta, Mitchell suffered a blow on his left shoulder in game two against Minnesota and didn't reveal any problem to coaches or trainers. Later, he admitted he had trouble getting loose and struggled with his delivery, often with wild results. To help Mitchell regain his form and confidence, the Lions hired ex-Lion quarterback Greg Landry to work with him as the team's quarterback coach. After losing Krieg to the Cardinals in the offseason, the Lions signed ex-Colt and ex-Pack-

lynchpin as a nose tackle. Until Elliss slipped later in round one than the Lions projected, Robert Porcher was going to move from end to tackle, leaving the outside rush spots to Dan Owens, Tracy Scroggins, Tracy Hayworth, and Antonio London. Now Elliss gives Teerlinck flexibility because he can play outside or inside. The Lions lost Kelvin Pritchett to the Jaguars and cut Marc Spindler.

At linebacker, the Lions figure to use London or Scroggins outside with Chris Spielman and Michael Johnson solid in the other two spots. Spielman is coming off another all-pro year and Johnson was outstanding after he was rescued from Cleveland. The Lions will learn to get along with Pat Swilling.

Speed is a concern everywhere on defense, especially in the secondary, where Robert Massey and Ryan McNeil are the corners and second-year man Jocelyn Borgella is a possibility to push for a job. Milton Mack and Greg Jeffries are backups. Fontes needs a big year from free safety Bennie Blades, with hopes that second-year man Van Malone is ready to step up at strong safety, where Willie Clay started last year.

DETROIT LIONS

Wayne Fontes, Head Coach
Paul Boudreau, Offensive Line
Don Clemons, Outside Linebackers
John Fontes, Defensive Backs
Mo Forte, Running Backs
Bert Hill, Strength & Conditioning/Defensive Assistant
Steve Kazor, Tight Ends/Offensive Assistant
Greg Landry, Quarterbacks
Dave Levy, Assistant Head Coach
Tom Moore, Offensive Coordinator
Frank Novak, Special Teams
Herb Paterra, Defensive Coordinator
Chris Sanders, Receivers
John Teerlinck, Assistant Head Coach/Defense
Howard Tippet, Linebackers



HERMAN MOORE

er Don Majkowski and ex-Bengal Donald Hollas to compete with Chuck Long and Gino Torretta, but if any of them ends up challenging Mitchell, the Lions are back where they started from.

The offensive line suffered from hits in free agency, with left guard Shawn Bouwens going to Jacksonville and backup left tackle Larry Tharpe to Arizona. The anchors remain left tackle Lomas Brown and center Kevin Glover, with David Lutz at right tackle, Doug Widell at right guard, and backup Mike Compton at left guard. Scott Conover is a holdover and Fontes addressed the unit in the draft by taking Ronald Cherry and Hessler Hempstead.

Teerlinck and defensive coordinator Herb Paterra are switching to a 4-3 front similar to Minnesota's in which Thomas is the



SCOTT MITCHELL

Losing Gray automatically hurts the special teams immeasurably. He is a superstar who cannot easily be replaced. Morton may have to assume double duty because the loss of Derrick Moore also weakens an important area in the kick-return department. Jason Hanson is coming off his first off year, in which he was an uncharacteristic 5-for-13 from more than 40 yards. His leg is invaluable on kickoffs. The Lions traded for punter Harold Alexander from Atlanta after going with ex-Oiler star Greg Montgomery. They also lost kick snapper Mark Rodenhauser to Carolina, so special teams require a revamping to approach the standards of recent years.

LIONS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
5	Alexander, Harold	P	6-2	224	25	Appal. St.
48	Beer, Thomas	LB	6-2	237	27	Wayne State
36	Blades, Bennie	S	6-1	221	29	Miami
96	Bonham, Shane	DT	6-4	260	25	Tennessee
27	Borgella, Jocelyn	CB	5-10	182	24	Cincinnati
75	Brown, Lomas	T	6-4	287	33	Florida
68	Burton, Leonard	C	6-3	275	32	So. Carolina
81	Carter, Anthony	WR	5-11	181	35	Michigan
32	Clay, Willie	CB	5-9	184	25	Georgia Tech
77	Compton, Mike	C	6-6	297	25	West Virginia
76	Conover, Scott	T	6-4	285	27	Purdue
53	Glover, Kevin	C	6-2	282	33	Maryland
89	Hall, Ron	TE	6-4	245	32	Hawaii
49	Hallock, Ty	TE	6-3	249	25	Michigan St.
4	Hanson, Jason	K	5-11	183	26	Washington St.
99	Hayworth, Tracy	LB	6-3	260	28	Tennessee
12	Hollas, Donald	QB	6-3	215	28	Rice
82	Holman, Rodney	TE	6-3	238	36	Tulane
25	Jeffries, Greg	CB	5-9	184	24	Virginia
59	Johnson, Mike	LB	6-1	230	33	Virginia Tech
57	Jones, Victor	LB	6-2	250	29	Virginia Tech
52	Kowalkowski, Scott	LB	6-2	228	27	Notre Dame
55	London, Antonio	LB	6-2	234	25	Alabama
16	Long, Chuck	QB	6-4	217	33	Iowa
73	Lutz, David	T	6-6	305	36	Georgia Tech
26	Lynch, Eric	RB	5-10	224	26	Grand Valley
24	Mack, Milton	CB	5-11	195	32	Alcorn State
7	Majkowski, Don	QB	6-3	203	32	Virginia
39	Malone, Van	S	5-11	186	26	Texas
40	Massey, Robert	CB	5-10	195	29	N. C. Central
83	Matthews, Aubrey	WR	5-7	165	33	Delta State
47	McNeil, Ryan	CB	6-0	187	25	Miami
19	Mitchell, Scott	QB	6-6	230	28	Utah
9	Montgomery, Greg	P	6-4	215	31	Michigan St.
84	Moore, Herman	WR	6-3	210	26	Virginia
87	Morton, Johnnie	WR	5-9	190	24	USC
90	Owens, Dan	DE	6-3	280	29	USC
80	Perriman, Brett	WR	5-9	180	30	Miami
91	Porcher, Robert	DE	6-3	283	26	S. C. State
34	Rivers, Ron	RB	5-7	201	24	Fresno State
3	Royals, Mark	P	6-5	215	32	Appal. St.
20	Sanders, Barry	RB	5-8	203	27	Oklahoma St.
38	Scott, Kevin	CB	5-9	175	27	Stanford
97	Scroggins, Tracy	LB	6-2	255	26	Tulsa
54	Spielman, Chris	LB	6-0	247	30	Ohio State
56	Swilling, Pat	LB	6-3	242	31	Georgia Tech
71	Tharpe, Larry	T	6-4	299	25	Tennessee St.
97	Thomas, Henry	DT	6-2	277	31	LSU
13	Torretta, Gino	QB	6-2	215	25	Miami
95	Wells, Mike	DT	6-3	287	25	Iowa
67	Widell, Doug	G	6-4	280	29	Boston Col.

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Elliss, Luther	DT	6-5	291	Utah
3	Sloan, David	TE	6-6	254	New Mexico
5	Boyd, Stephen	LB	6-1	239	Boston College
5	McCorvey, Kez	WR	6-0	180	Florida State
5	Cherry, Ronald	OG	6-3	318	McNeese State
6	Hickman, Kevin	TE	6-4	258	Navy
6	Schlesinger, Cory	RB	6-1	230	Nebraska
7	Hempstead, Hessler	C	6-1	293	Kansas



TRENT DILFER

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS



Will the 20th time prove to be the charm? Believe it or not, fans of Carolina and Jacksonville, the Buccaneers got to the NFC title game in 1979, only four years after their birth. It turned out to be a premature tease. They haven't come close since.

This is not to suggest they haven't succeeded. After losing in double digits for the 12th year in a row, laying claim to the title of most futile franchise in sports, the Buccaneers were sold for a whopping \$192 million, the largest price ever paid in any sport. About the same time, former defensive end Lee Roy Selmon became the first Buccaneer voted into the Hall of Fame. Are these harbingers of a new day in the sun? Or will the Bucs once again wither in the heat?

As usual, coach Sam Wyche's offense appears to be ahead of his defense. The Bucs fired defensive coordinator Floyd Peters and replaced him with Seattle's Rusty Tillman, but they spent most of their free-agent money on a wide receiver, Alvin Harper of Dallas. Their first free-agent signee was punter Reggie Roby, providing a rather shaky picture of promises to come. Using seven of their eight draft picks for defensive players was a clearer indication of the problem.

With Harper aboard, the Bucs think they have a legitimate home-run weapon for the first time since the pirate grew a mustache. Eager to emerge from the shadow of Michael Irvin, Harper has ample opportunity to perform in a venue with all eyes focused on him. The expectations will be great. The realization that he no longer is surrounded by Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith, Jay Novacek, and Irvin will provide an adequate challenge. The hope is that holdover receivers Lawrence Dawsey, Horace Copeland,

Charles Wilson, and Lamar Thomas will benefit from Harper's presence the way Harper benefited in Dallas.

The plan is that last year's free-agent pickup, tight end Jackie Harris, will think Harper is Sterling Sharpe, the man Harris left in Green Bay to go south. Harris discovered he couldn't go it alone in a disappointing season that included an injured shoulder. Harris led the club in receiving for nine games before his injury, but the Bucs were 2-7. Tyji Armstrong took over for Harris and played so well that the Bucs potentially have as potent a 1-2 tight end punch as anyone in the league if both are healthy.

Another highlight of the season was the cementing of a consistently effective offensive line. With former No. 1 draft choice Charles McRae finally finding a home at left guard beside tackle Paul Gruber, the front of Gruber, McRae, center Tony Mayberry, right guard Ian Beckles, and right tackle Scott Dill started the final 10 games together, unusual stability for this team. They are back intact again.

Running back Errict Rhett is ready to roll after finally breaking into the starting lineup as a rookie in the final half of the season. He ran for 707 of his 1,011 yards in the last seven games. Don't ask why he wasn't starting earlier and running more often. By December, he carried 40 times

1994 LEADERS AND NFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Husted 89 points on 20 extra points and 23 field goals	13th
RUSHING—Rhett, 1,011 yards on 284 carries, 3.6 avg., 7 TDs	6th
PASSING—Erickson, 225 of 399 attempts for 2,919 yards and 16 TDs	7th
RECEIVING—Dawsey, 46 receptions for 673 yards, 14.6 avg., 1 TD	T31st
INTERCEPTIONS—Nickerson, 2 for 9 yards, 4.5 average	T37th
Mayhew, 2 for 4 yards, 2.0 average	T37th
PUNTING—Stryzinski, 72 punts, 38.9 avg., longest 53 yards	13th
PUNT RETURNS—Turner, 21 for 218 yards, 10.4 average	4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Turner, 43 for 886 yards, 20.6 average	13th
SACKS—Culpepper, 4.0 sacks	T38th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	N.Y. JETS (N)
	11	At Cincinnati (N)
	19	PITTSBURGH (N)
	25	vs. Miami at Orlando (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

		1994 SCORES
September	3	At Philadelphia.....
	10	At Cleveland.....
	17	CHICAGO.....6-20
	24	WASHINGTON.....26-21
October	1	At Carolina.....
	8	CINCINNATI.....
	15	MINNESOTA.....13-36
	22	ATLANTA.....13-34
	29	At Houston.....
November	5	OPEN DATE.....
	12	At Detroit.....9-14
	19	JACKSONVILLE.....
	26	At Green Bay.....3-30
December	3	At Minnesota.....20-17
	10	GREEN BAY (N).....19-34
	17	At Chicago.....9-21
	23	DETROIT.....24-14

against the Redskins for 192 yards and from mid-November to mid-December, he posted four 100-yard games in five weeks. Rhett's blocking back is Anthony McDowell, with backups Vince Workman and Rudy Harris in the wings.

Wyche's headache remains on defense, where Selmon should be convinced to come out of retirement and postpone his Hall of Fame induction. End Eric Curry is the only one of four top 10 defensive draft picks over the last 10 years still left on the Bucs' roster. Broderick Thomas, Keith McCants, and Ron Holmes never lived up to their billing, leaving the Bucs with a sorry legacy of missed opportunity. The University of Miami's Warren Sapp is the latest hope, and he arrived with question marks stamped all over him in the form of positive tests for substance abuse. Curry is coming off a disappointing sophomore season in which he garnered only three sacks, tying him with tackle Santana Dotson, who was benched, and tackle Mark Wheeler. The Bucs were led in sacks by tackle Brad Culpepper, who had four after arriving from Minnesota, where he couldn't break into the lineup. Left end Chidi Ahanotu was the only Buc defensive lineman to start all 16 games, and he managed just one sack in a defense designed by Peters to get after the passer.

Middle linebacker Hardy Nickerson missed three games and still compiled 122

Losing strong safety Marty Carter to Chicago in free agency doesn't seem like a good idea since Carter averaged 100 tackles the last four years, appearing to be the only Buc besides Nickerson who was really interested in such stuff. Attracting Cowboys sub Kenny Gant may help as he rejoins another ex-Cowboy Thomas Everett, but the Bucs are hoping Lynch emerges as a player. Second-round pick Melvin Johnson from Kentucky looks ready to step in right away. Cornerbacks Charles Dimry and Martin Mayhew joined Ahanotu as the only defenders to start all 16 games, so the Bucs appear well set at the corners, not a bad place for Tillman to start his retooling. Both are pretty good performers, especially considering the lack of a big-time pass rush in front of them. They are joined by rookies Jerry Wilson of Southern and Clifton Abraham from Florida State.

Punter Roby replaces Dan Stryzinski, who departed to Atlanta following an excellent season. Buccaneer coverage teams limited opponents to a league-low 103 yards of punt returns all season. Strong-legged

Michael Husted was better on kickoffs than on field goals, connecting on only four of 10 between 40-49 yards, not good enough to sustain a long career. Kick returner Vernon Turner is back after providing a highlight of the season. His 80-yard punt return for a touchdown against Detroit was the first punt returned for a touchdown in Tampa Bay history. The statistics for this club get more amazing every year.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sam Wyche, Head Coach
Maxie Baughan, Linebackers
Kippy Brown, Running Backs
Ken Clarke, Defensive Line
David Culley, Wide Receivers
Johnnie Lynn, Defensive Backs
Mike Mularkey, Tight Ends
Tom Pratt, Defensive Line
Brad Roll, Strength & Conditioning
Turk Schonert, Quarterbacks
George Stewart, Special Teams
Rusty Tillman, Defensive Coordinator
Bob Wylie, Offensive Line

BUCCANEERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	age	college
72	Ahanotu, Chidi	DT	6-2	280	25	California
86	Armstrong, Tyji	TE	6-4	255	25	Mississippi
62	Beckles, Ian	G	6-1	295	28	Indiana
89	Bishop, Harold	TE	6-4	250	26	LSU
53	Brady, Ed	LB	6-2	235	34	Illinois
57	Brady, Jeff	LB	6-1	235	27	Kentucky
28	Buckley, Curtis	CB	6-0	185	25	East Texas St.
27	Bussey, Barney	LB	6-0	210	34	S. C. State
88	Copeland, Horace	WR	6-2	195	25	Miami
73	Culpepper, Brad	DT	6-1	260	28	Florida
75	Curry, Eric	DE	6-5	270	26	Alabama
82	Davis, Tyree	WR	5-9	165	25	Central Ark.
80	Dawsey, Lawrence	WR	6-0	195	28	Florida State
12	Diller, Trent	QB	6-4	230	24	Fresno State
76	Dill, Scott	T	6-5	285	30	Memphis
39	Dimry, Charles	CB	6-0	175	30	UNLV
71	Dotson, Santana	DT	6-5	270	26	Baylor
93	DuBose, Demetrius	LB	6-1	240	25	Notre Dame
22	Everett, Thomas	S	5-9	185	31	Baylor
92	Faulkner, Jeff	DE	6-4	305	32	Southern
29	Gant, Kenneth	S	5-11	189	29	Albany State
74	Gruber, Paul	DE	6-5	290	31	Wisconsin
82	Harper, Alvin	WR	6-3	208	28	Tennessee
81	Harris, Jackie	TE	6-3	243	28	NE Louisiana
43	Harris, Rudy	RB	6-1	255	24	Clemson
85	Hawkins, Courtney	WR	5-9	180	26	Michigan St.
5	Husted, Michael	K	6-0	190	26	Virginia
90	Jones, Milton	DE	6-5	270	25	Central St.
79	Love, Sean	G	6-3	290	27	Penn State
47	Lynch, John	S	6-1	220	24	Stanford
51	Marts, Lonnie	LB	6-1	230	27	Tulane
61	Mayberry, Tony	C	6-4	290	28	Wake Forest
35	Mayhew, Martin	CB	5-8	175	30	Florida State
33	McDowell, Anthony	RB	5-11	235	27	Texas Tech
21	McGruder, Michael	CB	5-10	190	32	Kent State
94	McIntosh, Toddrick	DT	6-3	277	24	Florida State
70	McRae, Charles	T	6-7	300	27	Tennessee
83	Moore, Dave	WR	6-2	245	26	Pittsburgh
56	Nickerson, Hardy	LB	6-2	230	30	California
15	Philcox, Todd	QB	6-4	225	29	Syracuse
69	Pierson, Pete	T	6-5	287	25	Washington
95	Powe, Keith	DE	6-4	265	27	UTEP
60	Pyne, Jim	C	6-2	280	24	Virginia Tech
32	Rhett, Errict	RB	5-11	210	25	Florida
1	Roby, Reggie	P	6-2	258	34	Iowa
98	Spindler, Marc	DE	6-5	290	26	Pittsburgh
45	Stargell, Tony	CB	5-11	190	29	Tennessee St.
67	Sullivan, Mike	G	6-3	290	28	Miami
87	Thomas, Lamar	WR	6-1	170	26	Miami
2	Verdin, Clarence	WR	5-8	162	33	SW Louisiana
11	Weldon, Casey	QB	6-1	200	28	Florida State
77	Wheeler, Mark	DT	6-2	280	26	Texas A&M
4	Willis, Peter Tom	QB	6-2	204	29	Florida State
84	Wilson, Charles	WR	5-10	180	27	Memphis
91	Wilson, Karl	DE	6-5	277	31	LSU
46	Workman, Vince	RB	5-10	205	28	Ohio State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos.	ht.	wt.	college
1	Sapp, Warren	DT	6-1	280	Miami
1	Brooks, Derrick	LB	6-0	218	Florida State
2	Johnson, Melvin	S	5-11	194	Kentucky
4	Wilson, Jerry	CB	5-10	178	Southern
5	Abraham, Clifton	CB	5-8	185	Florida State
6	Rouse, Wardell	LB	6-2	230	Clemson
7	Ingram, Steve	OG	6-4	311	Maryland
7	Rodgers, Jeffrey	DE	6-3	273	Texas A&M



ALVIN HARPER

tackles to emerge again as the team's best defensive player. But this was a defense that finished 21st overall, 28th in percentage of passes intercepted, 28th in percentage of sacks, 27th in average gain allowed by rushers, and 25th in third-down efficiency. Part of the problem was that the Bucs had former safeties Barney Bussey and John Lynch trying to hold down one linebacker spot, providing an invitation to run. Lonnie Marts is the other linebacker and another high draft choice, Demetrius DuBose, plays behind Nickerson. A '95 first-round choice, Florida State's Derrick Brooks, is expected to make an immediate contribution as a playmaker.



ERRICT RHETT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

AFC PREDICTIONS

EAST

1. New England Patriots
2. Miami Dolphins
3. Indianapolis Colts
4. Buffalo Bills
5. New York Jets

CENTRAL

1. Pittsburgh Steelers
2. Cleveland Browns
3. Jacksonville Jaguars
4. Cincinnati Bengals
5. Houston Oilers

WEST

1. Los Angeles Raiders
2. San Diego Chargers
3. Denver Broncos
4. Seattle Seahawks
5. Kansas City Chiefs

AFC Champion: Los Angeles Raiders

Wild Cards: Miami Dolphins, Indianapolis Colts, San Diego Chargers

by LARRY FELSER

BUFFALO NEWS

At precisely the point where San Francisco's offense for the ages was running through the San Diego defense as if it were a dummy scrimmage in late July instead of Super Bowl XXIX, as many as a dozen AFC teams were saying to themselves, "We could do that, or better." Some of them are correct.

The AFC is swimming with contenders this year, either in a sea of mediocrity or a pool of teams on the make, depending upon one's perspective. Fourth graders have gone on to graduate from college in the time the AFC has failed to close the gap with the NFC. These days the gap may be wider than ever. Jim Kelly, long-time quarterback for the most frustrated AFC representatives of all, the Buffalo Bills, in a rare moment of retrospection last winter conceded the Bills were relieved not to be going back for a fifth consecutive Super Bowl because they had seen enough of the 49ers to know what to expect.

But hope springs eternal in the era of free agency. Teams have rearmed. Drafts were promising. Developing young players are about to mature. There is a feeling, possibly wishful thinking, that maybe San Francisco suffered too many hits and that the Niners, along with the NFC, are ready to be had.

EAST

The feeling here is that the principal challenge may come out of the East, where New England and Miami, the latter the defending division champion, should engage in hand-to-hand combat from September through December with Buffalo and Indianapolis pestering them along the way. The Dolphins made two serious free-agency acquisitions which should make them an even more prominent postseason team in 1995. One is

tight end Eric Green, the massive former Steeler who should be like found money as quarterback Dan Marino limps along in the winter of his career. The other is Trace Armstrong the ex-Chicago pass rusher whose signing Don Shula compared to the acquisition of "another John Offerdahl," which is putting the newcomer in legendary Dolphin company.

The thing people tend to forget about the Patriots is that they are a team still in ferment. They made a run at the division title a year ago, but that was at least a season sooner than expected. What happens when ex-Miami center Jeff Dellenbach is added to an already sturdy offensive line? When Willie McGinest teams with Chris Slade in the quarterback assault? When the skills of free-agent signer

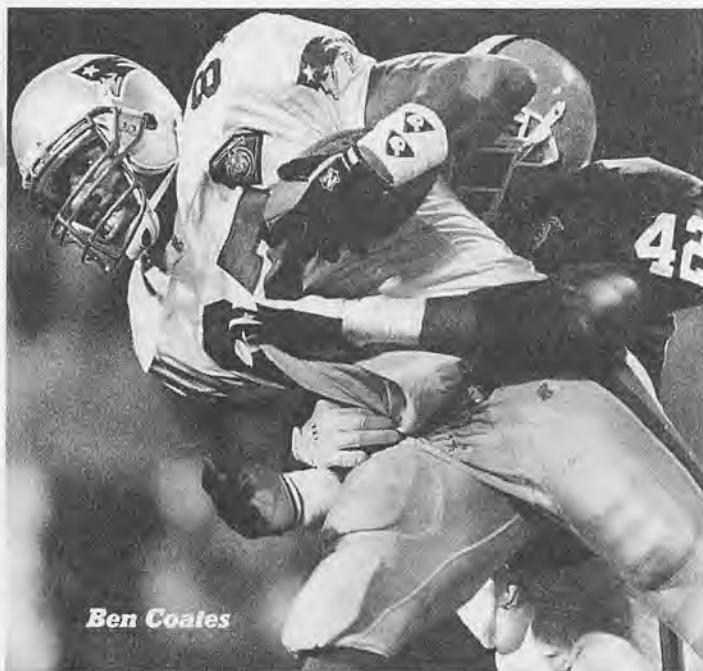
Dave Meggett are added to the offensive mix? When wonder quarterback Drew Bledsoe gets more experience?

Conventional wisdom could take a major beating since Shula's 64-year-old jaw is set more firmly than at any time in years. The expectation was that Shula would quietly slip into the executive suite after this season with Jimmy Johnson assuming command of the football team. First off, Johnson has discovered the pleasures of everyday life his millions can bring. He genuinely likes his TV work on the Fox Network. Then there are Shula's competitive fires. After all these

years and more victories than any other pro coach, those fires have not been banked. Miami came close last year, losing to San Diego in a bizarre finish in the semifinals. It galled Shula that he could come that close and not get the job done.

CENTRAL

Pittsburgh, despite suffering some free-agency raids, the most grievous of which was Green, looks strong enough to repeat in the Central. Cleveland might have made a run at the Steelers, but the Browns virtually seceded from the last draft when they were unable to select Penn State end Kyle Brady with the first-round pick they received in the



Ben Coates

Eric Metcalf trade. What could jumble the AFC Central is the prospect that Jacksonville may be the most muscular expansion franchise ever. The Jaguars built their team aggressively and intelligently, then had what might have been the best college draft in the NFL.

WEST

The West, with three new head coaches and the Joe Montana era in Kansas City at an end, is a jumble. The Chargers seem depleted after their Super Bowl defeat, losing a number of starters, including both safeties. An incalculable loss may be the retirement of long-time defensive guru Bill Arnsparger. It could be that San Diego will quietly repair itself on the eve of the season, as it did last year, but remember that both Charger playoff victories were achieved by the slimmest of margins with the slimmest amount of time remaining. The future could take them in any direction.

The Raiders, with emerging young talent such as defensive tackle Chester McGlockton and linebacker Ron Frederickson, plus a reinforced running game, could pop out

of the pack. New coach Mike White has never been a head man in the NFL before, but he was a well-respected college head coach at California and Illinois, and has long experience as an NFL aide in San Francisco and with the Raiders.

When Mike Shanahan was the first head coach from outside the Raider family hired during the Al Davis era, the players couldn't wait to get rid of him. The crisis became so intense that something very un-Davis happened: There was a midseason firing. Now Shanahan is back where he established his original reputation as Dan Reeves's imaginative offensive coordinator. Shanahan succeeds Wade Phillips, whose second year was handicapped by a four-game, opening losing streak the Broncos never could quite overcome. This time Shanahan returns with the mantle of having been the coordinator for what may be the greatest of modern offenses, that of the 1994 San Francisco 49ers. His greatest asset may be that he still has John Elway at quarterback. His second-greatest asset is that he's not the man who succeeds Reeves. Owner Pat Bowlen is a hard man to please.

Seattle may be about to make its move if Dennis Erickson can make as smooth a transition from college to NFL coaching as did another former Miami Hurricane coach, Jimmy Johnson. Erickson inherits a better team than Johnson did in Dallas. Rick Mirer is in his third year as quarterback and now he has ex-Cardinal Rickey Proehl and super speedy rookie Joey Galloway of Ohio State to throw to. The defense has Cortez Kennedy and other studs.

Montana's late-April decision to announce his retirement was a signal that Kansas City's days as a challenger are over, at least temporarily. The quarterbacks left behind in Montana's wake are all career backups. The free-agency formula chosen by general manager Carl Peterson was an odd one. They signed four ex-New York Jets, including three defensive backs who didn't get their old team very far in New York.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

There are some important changes among the flood of coordinator hirings and firings, too. Lindy Infante, once head coach of the Green Bay Packers, is the new offensive coordinator of the Colts. Indianapolis gave him something to work with by trading with Tampa Bay for quarterback Craig Erickson. Infante's challenge will be to meld Erickson into a fairly conservative offense which features Marshall Faulk, the bright new running star.

In Buffalo, the Bills had just 25 sacks last season and there were grumblings that the defense used by Walt Corey was not aggressive enough. So Corey went and Wade Phillips was hired with orders to attack. To emphasize that he meant it, owner Ralph Wilson signed Green Bay's valued blitzing linebacker, Bryce Paup; Denver nose tackle Ted Washington, and pass-rush specialist Jim Jeffcoat of Dallas.

Jerry Rhome, long a respected quarterback tutor, will introduce Steve McNair, Houston's exciting rookie, to the NFL. The Oilers, in Jeff Fisher's first full season as head coach, are in a pronounced state of rebuilding and it makes sense to start McNair, who has all the raw tools to excel as a pro.

Dick Adolph, the ex-Kansas City defensive coordinator, assumes Arnsperger's role in San Diego, a tough act to follow. Art Shell, the ex-head coach of the Raiders, gets the job of refashioning Kansas City's offensive line. Gary Kubiak, Elway's long-time understudy with the Broncos and last year the San Francisco quarterback coach, returned to Denver along with Shanahan to counsel Elway as the quarterback coach.

ROOKIES

There could be a number of impact rookies, considering the disheveled state of the conference. Impact is what the Cincinnati Bengals had in mind when they traded up from fifth place in the draft order to first and

selected Ki-Jana Carter, the Penn State running back, who would improve any team's running game.

Galloway could be the making of Mirer in Seattle, especially considering the Seahawks' new supporting cast. Mark Bruener, the tough, hard-blocking tight end from the University of Washington, will be the immediate replacement for Eric Green in the Pittsburgh lineup. The Jets, who lost their best pass rusher, Jeff Lageman, to Jacksonville in the free-agent wars, get a spectacular replacement in Hugh Douglas, the young linebacker from Central State. Stewart will be a celebrity in Jacksonville.

McNair's impact in Houston might come late in the season, but it should come. The critics wondered why the Raiders would waste a first-round pick on the undersized Napoleon Kaufman of the Washington Huskies, especially since they already re-signed Harvey Williams for a season and have other backs. But Kaufman is an extremely bright player as well as a fast one and his dedication to football could produce some bonus results.

Predictions for 1995 individual honors:

- *Rushing*: Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis
- *Passing*: Dan Marino, Miami
- *Receiving*: Andre Rison, Cleveland
- *MVP Offense*: Tim Brown, Raiders
- *MVP Defense*: Bruce Smith, Buffalo
- *Offensive Rookie of the Year*: James Stewart, Jacksonville
- *Defensive Rookie of the Year*: Hugh Douglas, New York
- *Coach of the Year*: Bill Parcells, New England

1995 ALL-AFC TEAM

OFFENSE

QB Drew Bledsoe, New England
 RB Marshall Faulk, Indianapolis
 RB James Stewart, Jacksonville
 WR Tim Brown, Los Angeles
 WR Andre Rison, Cleveland
 TE Eric Green, Miami
 OC Mark Stepnoski, Houston
 OG Steve Wisniewski, Los Angeles
 OG Keith Sims, Miami
 OT Will Wolford, Indianapolis
 OT Howard Ballard, Seattle
 PK Jeff Jaeger, Los Angeles
 KR Mel Gray, Houston

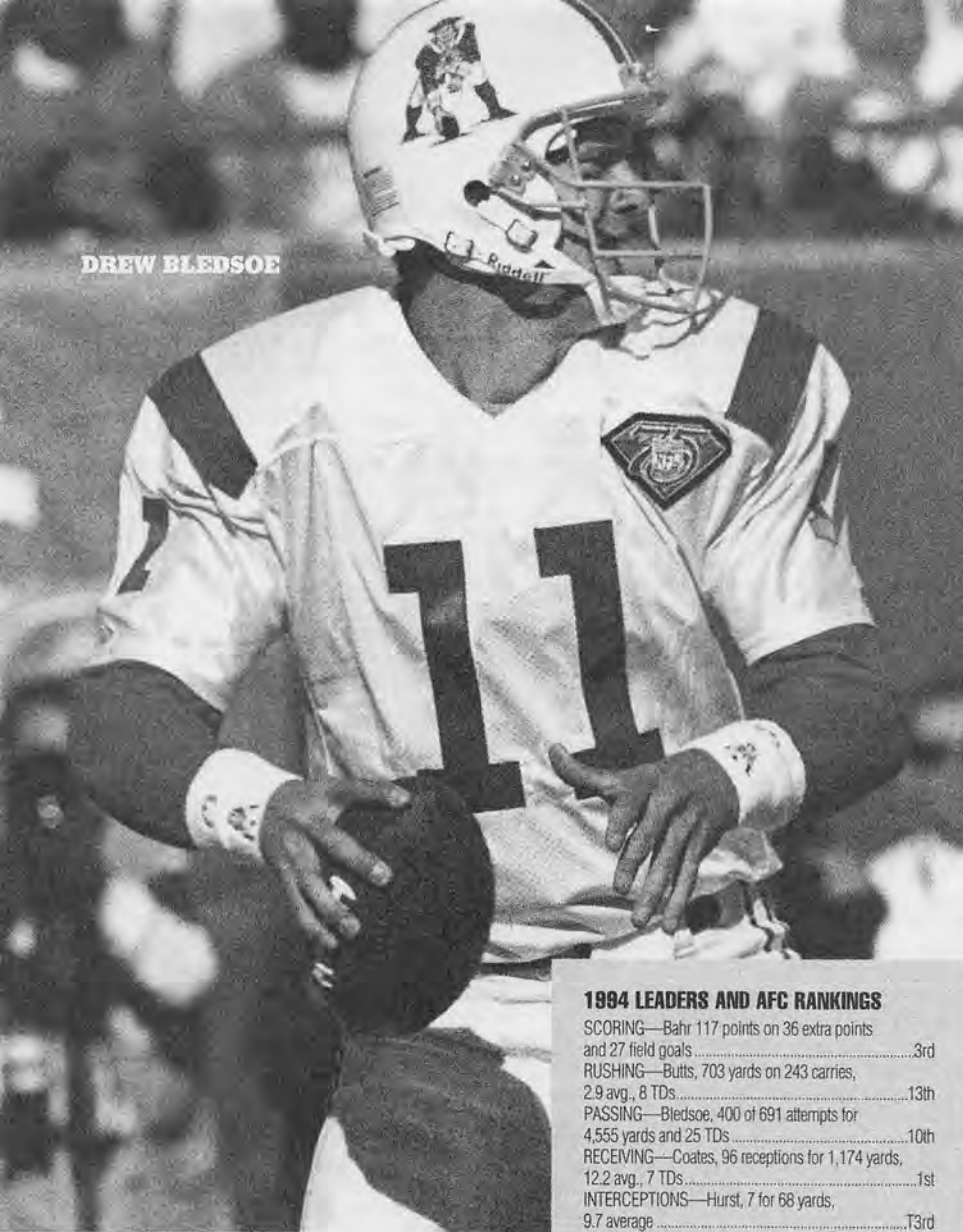
DEFENSE

DE Bruce Smith, Buffalo
 DE Leslie O'Neal, San Diego
 DT Chester McGlockton, Los Angeles
 DT Reuben Davis, San Diego
 OLB Chris Slade, New England
 OLB Willie McGinest, New England
 MLB Junior Seau, San Diego
 CB Ray Buchanan, Indianapolis
 CB Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh
 S Eric Turner, Cleveland
 S Darren Perry, Pittsburgh
 P Chris Mohr, Buffalo
 ST Steve Tasker, Buffalo



Tim Brown

DREW BLEDSOE



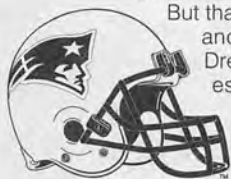
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Bill Parcells, the coach who made the phrase "power football wins" famous, stood on the sidelines in wonder and sometimes disbelief in mid-November last season. Parcells-style football is not 50 passes per game.

But that's what he was watching, and more. His quarterback, Drew Bledsoe, threw 70 passes and completed 45 of them. No NFL quarterback ever attempted more or completed more. In the end, Parcells couldn't

complain. The Patriots, trailing, 20-3, at half-time, came back to defeat the Minnesota Vikings, 26-20, the turnaround game in the Pats' successful push to the playoffs, someplace they hadn't been since 1986.

The question now is how far can Parcells go living on the football edge? Last season the Patriots averaged a mere 2.8 yards per rushing attempt and had a total of just 1,332 ground yards. Even great young quarterbacks can be stopped by strong defenses, as the Pats and Bledsoe were blunted by Cleveland in the playoffs.



1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Bahr, 117 points on 36 extra points and 27 field goals.....	3rd
RUSHING—Butts, 703 yards on 243 carries, 2.9 avg., 8 TDs.....	13th
PASSING—Bledsoe, 400 of 691 attempts for 4,555 yards and 25 TDs.....	10th
RECEIVING—Coates, 96 receptions for 1,174 yards, 12.2 avg., 7 TDs.....	1st
INTERCEPTIONS—Hurst, 7 for 68 yards, 9.7 average.....	T3rd
PUNTING—O'Neill, 69 punts, 41.2 avg., longest 67 yards.....	11th
PUNT RETURNS—Brown, 24 for 202 yards, 8.4 average.....	9th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Crittenden, 24 for 460 yards, 19.2 average.....	15th
SACKS—Slade, 9.5 sacks.....	T9th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	4	DETROIT (N)
	12	MINNESOTA (N)
	17	At Philadelphia (N)
	25	At Los Angeles (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	CLEVELAND.....	6-13
	10	MIAMI.....	3-23
	17	At San Francisco.....	—
	24	OPEN DATE.....	—
October	1	At Atlanta.....	—
	8	DENVER (N).....	—
	15	At Kansas City.....	—
	23	BUFFALO (N).....	35-38
	29	CAROLINA.....	—
November	5	At N.Y. Jets.....	17-24
	12	At Miami.....	35-39
	19	INDIANAPOLIS.....	28-13
	26	At Buffalo.....	41-17
December	3	NEW ORLEANS.....	—
	10	N.Y. JETS.....	24-13
	16	At Pittsburgh.....	—
	23	At Indianapolis (N).....	12-10

1994 SCORES

AFC east

Parcells worked aggressively during the offseason to provide some balance to the attack. He signed Dave Meggett, his old jack-of-many-trades with the Giants. Meggett should provide Bledsoe with all sorts of third-down options as well as add occasional unpredictability to the running game. Almost as important was the signing of Miami center Jeff Dellenbach. The Patriots needed someone to evict those big nose tackles, and that is in Dellenbach's resume.

Parcells might have strengthened his running game much more in the college draft, but the whispers around the league are that "Big Tuna" opened his mouth about how much he admired running back James Stewart of Tennessee. The man he talked to was his former aide, Tom Coughlin, now the football boss of the Jacksonville Jaguars, who traded up ahead of the Giants in the draft and took Stewart. Parcells will have to figure out something to make a running game go, just as he did with the venerable Ottis Anderson in the Giants' last Super Bowl season. Marion Butts averaged just 2.9 yards after coming from San Diego. Leroy Thompson did a little better, but he lacks explosiveness. The Pats lost one of their most underrated players, fullback Kevin Turner, who was signed as a free agent by Philadelphia.

The draft brought Curtis Martin of Pitt, who came out as a fourth-year junior with an injury-pocked career. What Parcells hopes for is the Martin of 1993, when he ran for 1,075 yards and seven touchdowns. Last season, after a fast start, Martin suffered a severe ankle sprain that kept him out of the lineup for the rest of the fall. He's a hard runner with good quickness and balance, something New England's running game can use. Eventually he could help the passing game since he's a good receiver, but with Meggett around, Parcells is unlikely to burden Martin with extra chores. In fact, he'll probably share the ball-carrying assignments for half the season.

The running game is vitally important to Parcells, because despite Bledsoe's skills and his spectacular numbers (25 touchdowns and a league-leading 4,555 yards passing), there is too much all-or-nothing involved. The youngster was intercepted 27 times and his interception percentage was among the highest in the NFL. Of course, the Pats would be out of business without Bledsoe. He, almost alone, can keep them in contention. Last season began with shootout losses of 39-35 to Miami, then 38-35 to Buffalo. Even Cincinnati extended them, 31-28, before the Pats pulled out their first victory. The flip side is that no deficit seems too large with Bledsoe at quarterback. In the next-to-last game, with the playoffs in doubt, Buffalo assumed a quick 17-3 lead, but Bledsoe blew that away in no time and the Patriots cruised.

A great deal of the offensive design centers around pass protection. Bledsoe was sacked only 22 times in 691 passing attempts. Left tackle Bruce Armstrong was particularly effective protecting Bledsoe's blind side. He ended up in the Pro Bowl. The offensive line is capable of more than keeping Bledsoe in a sealed box. Armstrong and Pat Harlow form one of the better tackle tandems in the league. Bob Kratch was an important free agent last fall and now Dellenbach adds strength and savvy. When the Pats go to a double-tight-end setup, John Burke makes underrated contributions. Even without a feature ball carrier, look for the Pats to move up markedly from the No. 27 ranking that embarrassed Parcells a year ago.

Bledsoe has many targets, but chief among them is Ben Coates, who emerged as one of the premier tight ends in the game, leading the AFC with 96 catches which produced 1,174 yards and seven touchdowns. Coates was a crucial man on third downs. Vincent Brisby, a speed guy, averaged 15.6 yards on his 58 catches, scoring five touchdowns. Thompson also caught five TD passes among his 65 receptions, numbers sure to go down with the arrival of Meggett.

MARION BUTTS



Subtracted for this fall are the 126 catches made by Turner and Michael Timpson. Timpson, who had 74, signed with the Bears as a free agent. Timpson may be easier to replace. Ray Crittenden averaged almost a yard more than Timpson on his 28 catches and got into the end zone as much—three times. Bledsoe could get a big lift from Kevin Lee, the club's No. 2 draftee in 1994, who missed the entire season due to injury. Parcells didn't feel a need to draft a receiver this time.

The operative word for the New England defense is "takeaways." No team had more than the Pats' 40 (22 interceptions and 18 fumble recoveries). Chances are they could be more opportunistic this season. Their overall defensive rating, 18th in 1994, should also rise.

It took until November, but the newly fashioned secondary finally did get its act together. For the first nine games, the defensive backs were burned so frequently it was becoming an NFL scandal. That was the reason for so many shootouts. But then cor-

nerback Ricky Reynolds tightened up his performance and so did his fellow free agent, free safety Myron Guyton. The solid man in the deep coverage is Maurice Hurst. Pass coverage so concerns Parcells that he spent two of his first four draft choices on cornerbacks. That is obviously an anti-Miami move. The top pick was Ty Law, who left Michigan a year early. With his second pick in the third round, Parcells gambled on Jimmy Hitchcock of North Carolina, once rated the best secondary prospect in the draft but downgraded because of a risky knee condition. Another defensive back, Carlos Yancy, was selected in Round 7. Someone will have to replace strong safety Harlon Barnett, who left via free agency.

The strength of the defense, and its best prospect for improvement, is the linebacking. The Patriots had 39 sacks last year. In the conference, only San Diego and Pittsburgh, the AFC's Super Bowl semifinalists, had more. Outside linebackers Chris Slade and Willie McGinest contributed 14, with Slade getting 9.5. The expectation is that McGinest could make a giant leap as a pro sophomore. No telling how far Slade, a rising star, can climb. Inside backer Vincent Brown is one of the foremost run pluggers in the league and his partner, Todd Collins, has been a pleasant surprise. Adding to an already robust roster of backers is second-round draftee Ted Johnson of Colorado.

It's changeover time in the defensive line, central to the Patriots' embarrassing yield of 4.2 yards per rushing play in '94. The most

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Bill Parcells, Head Coach
Maurice Carthon, Offensive Assistant
Romeo Crennel, Defensive Line
Al Groh, Defensive Coordinator
Fred Hoaglin, Offensive Line
Chris Palmer, Wide Receivers
Johnny Parker, Strength & Conditioning
Ray Perkins, Offensive Coordinator
Mike Pope, Running Backs
Dante Scarnecchia, Special Assistant
Mike Sweatman, Special Teams
Bob Trott, Defensive Backs
Charlie Weis, Tight Ends

DAVE MEGGETT



notable pickup is 10-year veteran Jon Hand from Indianapolis. Also signed was Reggie White. No, not *that* Reggie White. This is the reserve from San Diego. They join other veterans such as 13-year-man Mike Pitts, Aaron Jones, Tim Roberts, and Mike Jones, who had six sacks a year ago.

Parcells doesn't ask too much of kicker Matt Bahr, who connected on 27 of 34 field goals but didn't try one 50 yards or longer. Pat O'Neill, after a shaky rookie start, averaged 41.2 yards as the punter and kicked off strongly. The Pats need a return man, and that's another area where Meggett fits in.

PATRIOTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
50	Abrams, Bobby	LB	6-3	230	29	Michigan
78	Armstrong, Bruce	T	6-4	284	30	Louisville
65	Arthur, Mike	C	6-3	280	28	Texas A&M
3	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	39	Penn State
98	Barnett, Troy	DE	6-4	280	25	No. Carolina
11	Bledsoe, Drew	QB	6-5	233	24	Washington St.
51	Bowden, Andre	LB	6-3	240	28	Fayetteville St.
82	Brisby, Vincent	WR	6-1	186	25	NE Louisiana
30	Brown, Corwin	S	6-0	192	26	Michigan
86	Brown, Troy	WR	5-9	190	24	Marshall
59	Brown, Vincent	LB	6-2	245	31	Miss. Valley
85	Burke, John	WR	6-3	258	24	Virginia Tech
44	Butts, Marion	RB	6-1	248	29	Florida State
87	Coates, Ben	TE	6-4	245	26	Livingstone
54	Collins, Todd	LB	6-2	242	26	Carson-New.
81	Crittenden, Ray	WR	6-0	188	26	Virginia Tech
26	Croom, Corey	RB	5-11	212	25	Ball State
65	Dellenbach, Jeff	C	6-5	290	33	Wisconsin
99	Deossie, Steve	LB	6-2	248	33	Boston Col.
88	Francisco, Paul	TE	6-6	236	26	Boston U.
33	Gash, Sam	RB	5-11	224	27	Penn State
67	Gisler, Mike	G	6-4	300	26	Houston
29	Guyton, Myron	S	6-1	205	28	E. Kentucky
77	Harlow, Pat	T	6-6	290	27	USC
37	Hurst, Maurice	CB	5-10	185	28	Southern
97	Jones, Aaron	DE	6-5	267	29	E. Kentucky
96	Jones, Mike	DE	6-4	295	26	N. C. State
61	Kratch, Bob	G	6-3	288	30	Iowa
68	Lane, Max	T	6-6	307	25	Navy
86	Lee, Kevin	WR	6-0	189	25	Alabama
35	Legette, Burnie	RB	6-0	243	25	Michigan
43	Lewis, Vernon	CB	5-10	192	25	Pittsburgh
55	McGinest, Willie	DE	6-4	255	24	USC
30	Meggett, David	RB	5-7	180	30	Towson State
70	Moore, Brandon	T	6-7	290	26	Duke
58	Moore, Marty	LB	6-0	242	25	Kentucky
5	O'Neill, Pat	P	6-1	195	25	Syracuse
93	Pitts, Mike	DE	6-5	277	35	Alabama
23	Ray, Terry	S	6-1	205	26	Oklahoma
21	Reynolds, Ricky	CB	5-11	190	31	Washington St.
68	Roberts, Tim	DT	6-6	318	27	S. Mississippi
71	Rucci, Todd	G	6-5	291	25	Penn State
95	Sabb, Dwayne	LB	6-4	248	26	New Hamp.
74	Skene, Doug	G	6-6	294	26	Michigan
53	Slade, Chris	LB	6-4	232	25	Virginia
63	Stanley, Sylvester	NT	6-2	283	26	Michigan
36	Thompson, Leroy	RB	5-11	217	28	Penn State
91	Walker, Bruce	DT	6-3	326	23	UCLA
7	Walker, Jay	QB	6-3	230	24	Howard
25	Whigham, Larry	S	6-2	199	24	NE Louisiana
90	White, Reggie	DT	6-4	300	26	N. C. A&T
27	Wren, Darryl	CB	6-0	188	29	Pittsburgh St.
16	Zolak, Scott	QB	6-5	222	28	Maryland

DRAFTED

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Law, Ty	CB	5-11	196	Michigan
2	Johnson, Ted	LB	6-3	238	Colorado
3	Martin, Curtis	RB	5-11	197	Pittsburgh
3	Hitchcock, Jimmy	CB	5-10	194	North Carolina
4	Wohlabaugh, Dave	C	6-3	304	Syracuse
6	Philyaw, Dino	RB	5-10	190	Oregon
7	Yancy, Carlos	CB	6-0	185	Georgia



AFC in scoring. They knocked off Kansas City and Joe Montana in the first round of the playoffs, then lost to San Diego, the eventual champ, by one point. Marino, despite an incomplete recovery from his Achilles' tendon surgery, led the AFC in passing and in touchdown passes (30). His 4,453 yards were second to New England's Drew Bledsoe by just 102 yards. Still, Shula was not without his worries. Terry Kirby, who began the season like Miami's version of Ricky Watters, suffered a knee injury in the fourth game and didn't play again. Fullback Keith Byars, the premier blocker/receiver, suffered a serious knee injury in November and didn't return. Entering training camp, Shula was sure of neither player.

The offensive line, which protects Marino nearly flawlessly, suffered wounds, defecation, and aging. Jeff Dellenbach, the valued center, signed with New England as a free agent. Right guard Bert Weidner, who developed into a solid right guard, suffered a late-season ankle injury that defied post-season rehabilitation. The play of right tackle Ron Heller deteriorated late last year and this is his 12th in the NFL. Miami may have a built-in replacement for Dellenbach in Tim Ruddy, last year's No. 2 draftee. To guard against carnage on the right side of the line,

MIAMI DOLPHINS

The Mt. Rushmore features seem sharper, the gaze more penetrating, the ambition definitely more burning—if that's possible. Don Shula is not quite ready to step into the Pro Football Hall of Fame yet, but he's over-ready for another Super Bowl.



Shula not only rehabilitated his torn Achilles' tendon, he did some impressive work on the improvement of his football team over the winter after losing to the San Diego Chargers in the playoffs. He took risks in his renovation job. Some solid, some that could turn out to be foolish. He signed Pittsburgh's huge tight end, Eric Green, who at times was a pain to the Steelers. It was Green who organized the infamous pregame "victory rap" video that so enraged the Chargers in the AFC final. But then Keith Jackson, Green's predecessor, was no day at Miami Beach. Shula also re-signed wide receiver Randal Hill, whom he once made his No. 1 draft choice, despite a reputation that was off-putting even by Miami Hurricane stan-

dards. Shula traded Hill before he got to play a game for the Dolphins, but he's taking a second chance.

The most startling risk was Shula's decision to sign Brent Moss of Wisconsin as a college free agent after the rest of the NFL had shunned Moss in the draft. He would have been at least a second-round draft choice, probably higher. When the Buffalo Bill scouted him after he won the Rose Bowl's Most Valuable Player award as a junior, they saw the second coming of Thurman Thomas. What got him red-flagged on draft day—and dropped from the Badger squad early in the season—was an extremely serious cocaine charge. There is also a domestic abuse charge in his background, something that isn't so easily dismissed in the NFL any longer.

Yet if Green plays up to his potential, he will be Dan Marino's new best friend. If Hill has matured, the Dolphins will have a more dangerous receiving partner for Irving Fryar than the departed Mark Ingram. If Moss gets an "A" in deportment, the Miami running game, which improved notably last year, could be a force.

Even without all those factors in '94, the Dolphins led the league in offense and the

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Stoyanovich 107 points on 35 extra points and 24 field goals.....	7th
RUSHING—Parmalee, 868 yards on 216 carries, 4.0 avg., 6 TDs.....	8th
PASSING—Marino, 385 of 615 attempts for 4,453 yards and 30 TDs.....	1st
RECEIVING—Fryar, 73 receptions for 1,270 yards, 17.4 avg., 7 TDs.....	9th
INTERCEPTIONS—Vincent, 5 for 113 yards, 22.6 average, 1 TD.....	16th
PUNTING—Arnold, 46 punts, 39.3 avg., longest 53 yards.....	14th
PUNT RETURNS—McDuffie, 32 for 228 yards, 7.1 average.....	12th
KICKOFF RETURNS—McDuffie, 36 for 767 yards, 21.3 average.....	12th
SACKS—Cross, 9.5 sacks.....	19th

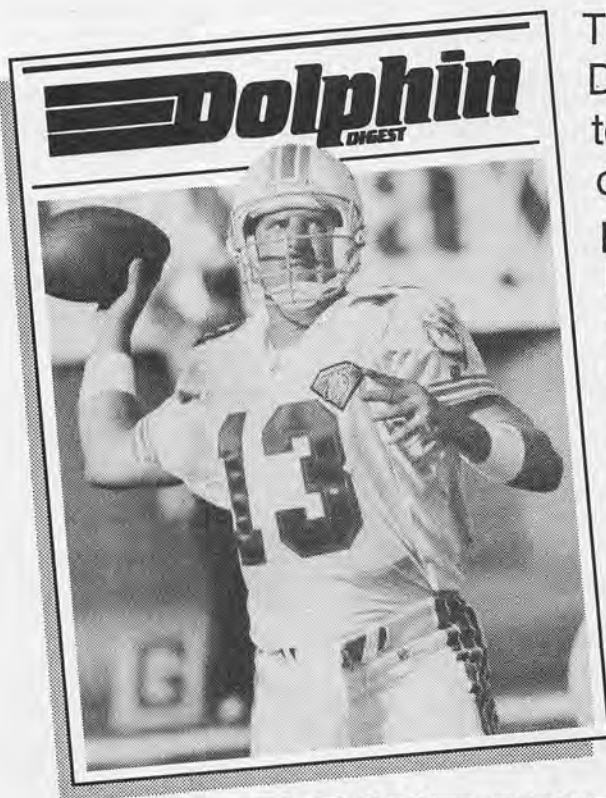
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	4	JACKSONVILLE (N)
	11	At Atlanta (N)
	19	WASHINGTON (N)
	25	vs. Tampa Bay at Orlando (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

		1994 SCORES
September	3	N.Y. JETS.....28-14
	10	At New England.....23-3
	18	PITTSBURGH (N).....13-16
	24	OPEN DATE.....
October	1	At Cincinnati.....23-7
	8	INDIANAPOLIS.....22-21
	15	At New Orleans.....
	22	At N.Y. Jets.....28-24
	29	BUFFALO.....31-42
November	5	At San Diego (N).....
	12	NEW ENGLAND.....39-35
	20	SAN FRANCISCO (N).....
	26	At Indianapolis.....6-10
December	3	ATLANTA.....
	11	KANSAS CITY (N).....45-28
	17	At Buffalo.....11-21
	24	At St. Louis.....

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the Dolphins drafted linemen with their first two selections. The first is Billy Milner of Houston, who can play tackle. Some NFL teams considered Milner an injury risk, but all agreed he was a fine player. The second was 299-pound guard Andrew Greene of Indiana. Shula would not be leery of starting both Milner and Greene if he has to. He's done it before with left tackle Richmond Webb and left guard Keith Sims when they were rookies in 1990. Webb went to the Pro Bowl that year and every season afterward. Simms joined him the last two years.

Green will be a much more enthusiastic blocker than Jackson, which may be damning with faint praise. Green caught 46 passes, 13 fewer than Jackson, but they averaged a full two yards more. Remember that he had Neil O'Donnell passing to him, not Marino. The Dolphins made an interesting choice in the fourth round of the draft, selecting tight end Pete Mitchell, a great player at Boston College. Mitchell is more of an H-back for the pros, but Marino did a lot of business with Joe Rose in the '80s, and Mitchell has more talent. He also brings a bonus skill: He's a long snapper. Fryar had the season of his career with 73 catches for 1,270 yards and seven touchdowns. His stats could go down but his effectiveness should go up. Likely to start opposite him is O.J. McDuffie, with Hill the third wide receiver. McDuffie touched the ball 42 times last year and produced 31 first downs. That's reason enough to be in the starting lineup.

In case Kirby and Byars don't recover fully, or Moss proves too risky, the Dolphins are protected. They believe there is safety in numbers. Bernie Parmalee, the most

Bears, more than any Dolphin except end Jeff Cross, whose re-signing Shula made a priority. The keystone of the new defense was laid last year when Tim Bowens, the monster tackle, was drafted. Bowens clogged up the running lanes and pushed the passing pocket, something that had been missing from the Miami defense for years. With Armstrong, Cross, strongman Chuck Klingbeil, and Marco Coleman operating with him in one form or another, the pass rush should be improved.

The linebacking, too, could be better. This will be Bryan Cox's second year in the middle. Experience and the fact that is no longer such a loose cannon will help. Chris Singleton performed like the outside backer New England always hoped he would be when it made him a premium draft choice, then he broke his leg in late November. If Singleton returns to form, it will give Tom Olivadotti, the defensive coordinator, more flexibility. Aubrey Beavers had a so-so rookie season on the outside.

The wild card in the Miami defense is Shula's open desire to sign Deion Sanders for the stretch run. According to Deion, the Dolphins finished as runner-up to San Francisco in his round-the-league tour last year. Troy Vincent has already declared himself "the best cornerback in the league," so J.B.

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Don Shula, Head Coach
Joel Collier, Staff Assistant
John Gamble, Strength
Joe Greene, Defensive Line
George Hill, Linebackers
Rich McGeorge, Assistant Offensive Lines
Tony Nathan, Offensive Backs
Tom Olivadotti, Defense
Mel Phillips, Defensive Backs
Monte Clark, Offensive Line
Larry Seiple, Receivers
Gary Stevens, Offensive/Quarterbacks
Junior Wade, Conditioning
Mike Westhoff, Special Teams



ERIC GREEN

famous ex-UPS employee in America, gained 868 yards, averaging four yards per carry, and caught 34 passes. Irving Spikes, an undrafted rookie, averaged 4.5 yards a carry and gained 312 yards. The Dolphins finished 13th in the NFL in rushing, which is the stratosphere for them.

Miami allowed more points than any other AFC playoff team, so Shula had to address that problem. He did so with trades, dealing with Green Bay for cornerback Terrell Buckley and with Chicago for pass rusher Trace Armstrong. Buckley still bears burn marks from his time with the Packers, but he is more likely to play a nickel back role in Miami. Armstrong had 7.5 sacks for the



TERRELL BUCKLEY

Brown probably would move to safety, joining Gene Atkins, if Sanders does become a Dolphin. If Miami stays a non-Deion zone, Michael Stewart returns to strong safety with Atkins at free safety.

Kicker Pete Stoyonovich converted 24 of his 31 field goal attempts last season, not up to his pace from 1990-92 but good enough to keep him among the NFL's most feared. McDuffie's punt- and kickoff-return work was not up to his earlier performances.

DOLPHINS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
92	Armstrong, Trace	DE	6-4	265	30	Florida
28	Atkins, Gene	S	5-11	200	31	Florida A&M
84	Baty, Greg	TE	6-6	240	31	Stanford
53	Beavers, Aubrey	LB	6-3	233	24	Oklahoma
95	Bowens, Tim	DT	6-4	315	23	Mississippi
77	Brothen, Kevin	G	6-1	284	26	Vanderbilt
37	Brown, J.B.	CB	6-0	190	29	Maryland
27	Buckley, Terrell	CB	5-9	174	25	Florida State
54	Bullough, Chuck	LB	6-1	238	27	Michigan St.
41	Byars, Keith	RB	6-1	256	32	Ohio State
98	Caesar, Mark	NT	6-2	295	26	Miami
84	Clark, Gary	WR	5-9	175	34	JMU
90	Coleman, Marco	DE	6-3	262	26	Georgia Tech
51	Cox, Bryan	LB	6-4	242	28	W. Illinois
91	Cross, Jeff	DE	6-4	273	30	Missouri
59	Dotson, Dewayne	LB	6-1	250	25	Mississippi
57	Fox, Dion	LB	6-3	249	25	JMU
80	Fryar, Irving	WR	6-0	200	33	Nebraska
93	Gaines, William	DT	6-5	300	25	Florida
32	Gary, Cleveland	RB	6-0	226	30	Miami
42	Green, Chris	CB	5-11	189	28	Illinois
86	Green, Eric	TE	6-5	280	29	Liberty
73	Heller, Ron	T	6-6	293	33	Penn State
89	Hill, Randal	WR	5-10	180	28	Miami
31	Hill, Sean	CB	5-10	175	24	Montana State
50	Hollier, Dwight	LB	6-2	250	27	No. Carolina
76	Irwin, Tim	T	6-7	297	37	Tennessee
38	Jackson, Calvin	CB	5-10	179	23	Auburn
97	Jackson, Tyoka	DE	6-1	266	24	Penn State
17	Kidd, John	P	6-3	208	34	Northwestern
43	Kirby, Terry	RB	6-1	219	26	Virginia
99	Klingbeil, Chuck	NT	6-1	289	30	N. Michigan
19	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	215	32	Miami
47	Malone, Darrell	CB	5-10	182	28	J'ville St.
13	Marino, Dan	QB	6-4	224	34	Pittsburgh
61	McDuffie, O.J.	WR	5-10	185	26	Penn State
11	McGwire, Dan	QB	6-8	239	28	San Diego St.
83	Miller, Scott	WR	5-11	179	27	UCLA
20	Oliver, Muhammad	CB	5-11	170	27	Oregon
30	Parmalee, Bernie	RB	5-11	204	28	Ball State
61	Ruddy, Tim	C	6-3	282	24	Notre Dame
22	Saxon, James	RB	5-11	237	30	San Jose St.
69	Sims, Keith	G	6-3	303	29	Iowa State
55	Singleton, Chris	LB	6-2	242	29	Arizona
29	Smith, Frankie	CB	5-9	186	27	Baylor
58	Solomon, Jesse	LB	6-0	235	32	Florida State
40	Spikes, Irving	RB	5-8	215	25	NE Louisiana
35	Stewart, Michael	S	6-0	195	30	Fresno State
10	Stoyonovich, Pete	K	5-10	195	29	Indiana
94	Veasey, Craig	DT	6-2	300	30	Houston
23	Vincent, Troy	CB	6-0	192	26	Wisconsin
78	Webb, Richmond	T	6-6	302	29	Texas A&M
79	Webster, Larry	DT	6-5	288	27	Maryland
60	Weidner, Bert	G	6-2	290	30	Kent State
87	Williams, Mike	WR	5-11	183	29	Northeastern
85	Williams, Ronnie	TE	6-3	259	30	Oklahoma St.
49	Wilson, Robert	RB	6-0	258	27	Texas A&M

DRAFTIES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Milner, Billy	OT	6-5	290	Houston
2	Greene, Andrew	OG	6-3	299	Indiana
4	Mitchell, Pete	TE	6-2	242	Boston College
5	Hand, Norman	DT	6-3	325	Mississippi
6	Kopp, Jeff	LB	6-3	243	USC
7	Swinson, Corey	DT	6-5	330	Hampton
7	Myers, Shannon	WR	6-1	178	Lenoir-Rhyne

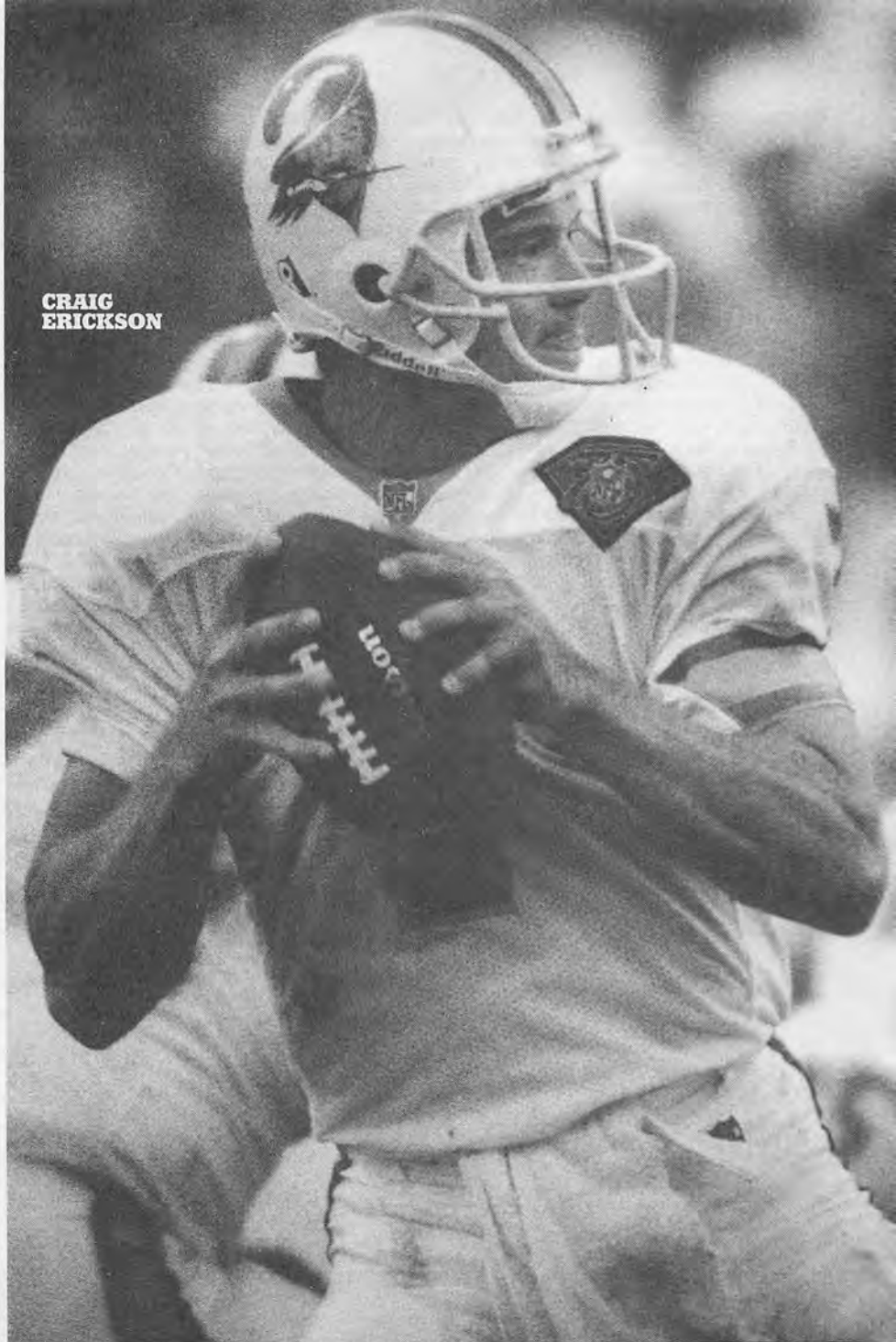
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Everyone kept saying, "Give the Colts a quarterback and they would be dangerous." They weren't talking about a Drew Bledsoe or a Rick Mirer. With Marshall Faulk in their backfield, they didn't need that. What Indianapolis needed was a quarterback who could provide some stability and consistency to take them off the merry-go-round they had been on with Jim Harbaugh, Don Majkowski, Browning Nagle, and Jack Trudeau since Jeff George was banished to Atlanta two years ago.



It required a fairly stiff price, but the Colts seem to have their man in Craig Erickson, whom they obtained from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Erickson smoked them as the Bucs won an early-season game last year, but what impressed them most about the new guy is that he seems capable of running a control offense that will be far more balanced than it was 1994, when Indy finished dead last in the NFL in passing. Even when you have the fourth-ranked running game, there has to be a certain amount of dimension. Erickson was the sixth-ranked

CRAIG ERICKSON



1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Biasucci 85 points on 37 extra points and 16 field goals	12th
RUSHING—Faulk, 1,282 yards on 314 carries, 4.1 avg., 11 TDs	3rd
PASSING—Harbaugh, 125 of 202 attempts for 1,440 yards and 9 TDs	unranked
RECEIVING—Turner, 52 receptions for 593 yards, 11.4 avg., 6 TDs	T22nd
Faulk, 52 receptions for 522 yards, 10.0 avg., 1 TD	T22nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Buchanan, 8 for 221 yards, 27.6 average, 3 TDs	2nd
PUNTING—Stark, 73 punts, 42.4 avg., longest 60 yards	6th
PUNT RETURNS—Brewer, 42 for 339 yards, 8.1 average	11th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Humphrey, 35 for 783 yards, 22.4 average, 1 TD	6th
SACKS—Bennett, 9.0 sacks	13th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	4	CINCINNATI (N)
	12	At Seattle (N)
	19	At Green Bay
	24	CHICAGO (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	CINCINNATI	17-13
	10	At N.Y. Jets	6-16
	17	At Buffalo	27-17
	24	OPEN DATE	—
October	1	ST. LOUIS	—
	8	At Miami	21-22
	15	SAN FRANCISCO	—
	22	At L.A. Raiders	—
	29	N.Y. JETS	28-25
November	5	BUFFALO	10-9
	12	At New Orleans	—
	19	At New England	13-28
	26	MIAMI	10-6
December	3	At Carolina	—
	10	At Jacksonville	—
	17	SAN DIEGO	—
	23	NEW ENGLAND (N)	10-12

1994 SCORES

passer in the NFC, completing over 56 percent of his throws for 2,919 yards and 16 touchdowns with 10 interceptions.

The new offensive coordinator is Lindy Infante, ex-head coach of the Green Bay Packers. Long before the west coast offense became the rage, Infante conducted controlled passing games as coordinator of strong Cleveland and Cincinnati teams. This is still, basically, a Faulk offense, and why not when you have the brightest and most exciting runners to enter the league in several seasons? Not that much explosion is needed with Faulk around. Not only does the opposition hold its breath each time he carries the ball from scrimmage, he also had the second-longest reception in the AFC last year, an 85-yard touchdown. Faulk opened with a 143-yard rushing game

against Houston in his pro debut, followed it up with 104 yards against Tampa Bay, and just kept going until he finished with 1,282 yards for the season. He averaged 112.75 yards per game from scrimmage. Only old Colt heroes Lydell Mitchell, Eric Dickerson, and Hall of Famer Lenny Moore ever topped that in franchise annals. Faulk cruised into the Pro Bowl.

Judging by the team that coach Ted Marchibroda and personnel chief Bill Tobin put together, there could be more of the same, with enough to get into the playoffs. Using expensive free agents Will Wolford at left tackle and Kirk Lowdermilk at center as the foundation, the Colts now have an offensive line that serves as a group bodyguard for Faulk and should be able to protect Erickson, considering the manner in which

defenses have to respect the Indy running game first. Right guard Joe Staysniak joined Wolford and Lowdermilk as every-game starters. Randy Dixon is the left guard and Zefross Moss and Cecil Gray will battle it out at right tackle.

With tight end Kerry Cash gone to the Raiders as a free agent, rookie Ken Dilger of Illinois is the favorite to start and could also inherit the long-snapper duties. With Faulk around, fullback Roosevelt Potts is now mainly a lead blocker, but he can carry the ball and catch it, even break the occasional big one as he did on a 52-yarder against the Patriots. The draft brings another versatile fullback, Zack Crockett of Florida State.

You have to go down to the 22nd position in the AFC pass-receiving standings to find a Colt. In fact, Faulk tied for that honor, too. He and Floyd Turner each caught 52 passes. Turner averaged just 11.4 yards although he scored six touchdowns. Sean Dawkins caught one fewer pass but averaged 14.5 yards and scored five touchdowns. Dawkins and Faulk caught passes in every game. Flipper Anderson, long a favorite with the L.A. Rams, was signed as a free agent and provides a needed deep threat. He averaged 20.5 yards on 46 catches, five of them for scores, in the final season in Anaheim.

The presence of Faulk and the trade for Erickson overshadows the fact that much of what the Colts are about now is defense. Indianapolis won four of its last six games in '94 (both losses were to New England) and in the process limited the opposition to an average of just over 14 points. The defense is young, was reinforced in the draft, and will get better.

The linebacking features two of the most widely acclaimed outside backers to enter the league in the '90s: Trev Alberts will be on the left side and Quentin Coryatt on the right. Alberts underwent early surgery for a balky elbow, but when he returned he demonstrated he will be a force as a pass rusher. In two seasons, Coryatt had 15 double-digit tackle games. He was the middle linebacker as a rookie, then moved to the right side. Jeff Herrod is now the run-plugging middle man.

Free agent Tony Bennett contributed nine sacks from right end. There was a solid inside rush from Tony McCoy (6 sacks) and Tony Siragusa (5). There should be a new left end, No. 1 draftee Ellis Johnson of Florida, who played inside in college. Defensive coordinator Vince Tobin thinks Johnson will fit the Colts' scheme better coming from the outside. The major question is where does Steve Emtman fit in? Three years ago he was the top pick in the draft, but he's been hit with injury after injury. The latest was late-November surgery to repair a herniated neck disc. In the four games he did play, he looked like

the superstar the Colts expected.

The big man in the secondary is left corner Ray Buchanan, who returned three interceptions for touchdowns after he was switched from free safety. Buchanan does everything, including force the run and blitz the quarterback. Eugene Daniel is the veteran right corner with Jason Belser at free safety and David Tate on the strong side.

Indy's kicking game may be in a state of transition, but there is nothing wrong with the explosion in their return game. Ronald Humphrey ran back a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown and Dewell Brewer returned a punt 75 yards for another.

COLTS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
51	Alberts, Trev	LB	6-4	242	25	Nebraska
33	Ambrose, Ashley	CB	5-10	185	25	Miss. Valley
	Anderson, Willie	WR	6-0	172	31	UCLA
81	Arbuckle, Charles	TE	6-3	248	27	UCLA
80	Bailey, Aaron	WR	5-10	184	24	Louisville
83	Banta, Bradford	TE	6-6	255	25	USC
29	Belser, Jason	S	5-9	187	26	Oklahoma
56	Bennett, Tony	LB	6-2	243	29	Mississippi
4	Biasucci, Dean	K	6-0	190	33	W. Carolina
34	Buchanan, Ray	CB	5-9	193	24	Louisville
6	Cofer, Mike	K	6-1	190	32	N. C. State
55	Coryatt, Quentin	LB	6-3	250	25	Texas A&M
39	Covington, John	S	6-0	198	24	Notre Dame
38	Daniel, Eugene	CB	5-11	188	35	LSU
87	Dawkins, Sean	WR	6-4	213	25	California
69	Dixon, Randy	G	6-3	305	31	Pittsburgh
90	Emtman, Steve	DE	6-4	300	26	Washington
7	Erickson, Craig	QB	6-2	205	27	Miami
28	Faulk, Marshall	RB	5-10	200	23	San Diego St.
17	Gardocki, Chris	P	6-1	196	26	Clemson
59	Grant, Stephen	LB	6-0	242	26	West Virginia
75	Gray, Cecil	T	6-4	305	28	No. Carolina
30	Gray, Derwin	S	5-10	198	25	BYU
12	Harbaugh, Jim	QB	6-3	215	31	Michigan
54	Herrod, Jeff	LB	6-0	249	29	Mississippi
25	Humphrey, Ronald	RB	5-10	201	27	Miss. Valley
23	Humphries, Leonard	CB	5-9	180	26	Penn State
11	Justin, Paul	QB	6-3	205	28	Arizona State
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk	C	6-4	280	33	Ohio State
65	Mahlum, Eric	G	6-4	284	25	California
74	Mathews, Jason	T	6-5	284	25	Texas A&M
61	McCoy, Tony	NT	6-0	279	27	Florida
57	McDonald, Devon	LB	6-4	248	26	Notre Dame
73	Moss, Zefross	T	6-6	338	29	Alabama State
18	Nagle, Browning	QB	6-3	225	28	Louisville
93	Nunn, Freddie Joe	LB	6-4	249	34	Mississippi
42	Potts, Roosevelt	RB	6-0	245	25	NE Louisiana
97	Radicic, Scott	LB	6-3	240	34	Penn State
52	Ratigan, Brian	LB	6-4	241	25	Notre Dame
55	Sanders, Glenell	LB	6-1	237	29	La. Tech
92	Sims, Tom	NT	6-2	308	29	Pittsburgh
98	Siragusa, Tony	NT	6-3	303	29	Pittsburgh
86	Stablein, Brian	WR	6-1	191	26	Ohio State
79	Staysniak, Joe	T	6-4	302	29	Ohio State
49	Tate, David	S	6-1	200	31	Colorado
85	Turner, Floyd	WR	5-11	198	30	NW Louisiana
71	Vickers, Kipp	T	6-2	275	26	Miami
21	Warren, Lamont	RB	5-11	194	23	Colorado
36	Watts, Damon	CB	5-10	173	24	Indiana
86	West, Ed	TE	6-1	244	34	Auburn
95	Whittington, Bernard	DE	6-6	257	24	Indiana
67	Wolford, Will	T	6-5	300	32	Vanderbilt

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Johnson, Ellis	DT	6-2	290	Florida
2	Dilger, Ken	TE	6-5	251	Illinois
3	Crockett, Zack	RB	6-2	242	Florida State
4	McElroy, Ray	CB	5-11	196	E. Illinois
5	West, Derek	OT	6-8	298	Colorado
6	Gelzheiser, Brian	LB	6-2	243	Penn State
7	Cox, Jessie	LB	6-1	237	Texas Southern



QUENTIN
CORYATT



ROOSEVELT
POTTS

MARSHALL FAULK



INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Ted Marchibroda, Head Coach
Lindy Infante, Offensive Coordinator
Tom Batta, Tight Ends
Greg Blache, Defensive Line
Ron Blackledge, Offensive Line
Fred Bruney, Defensive Assistant
Gene Huey, Running Backs
Jim Johnson, Linebackers
Hank Kuhlmann, Special Teams
Jimmy Robinson, Receivers
Pat Thomas, Secondary
Vince Tobin, Defensive Coordinator
Tom Zupancic, Strength & Conditioning



JIM KELLY

BUFFALO BILLS



No longer are the Bills the nuclear offense that often would explode at a point-a-minute pace. Jim Kelly, the stellar quarterback, is 35 and returning from knee surgery which knocked him out of the lineup at the height of last year's playoff push. Thurman Thomas, the star half-back, shows signs of the effects of taking all those accumulated hits on that stubby little body. The anchors of the once-awesome offensive line now work elsewhere. Nevertheless, the Bills think they have at least one more shot at the AFC's big enchilada.

"We haven't had a strong defense since our AFL championship days in the AFL," said owner Ralph Wilson on the morning of the team's last game of 1994. "That's what wins Super Bowls—strong defense."

So out went Walt Cory as defensive coordinator. In came Wade Phillips, ex-head coach of the Denver Broncos. Out went passive, in came attack. That figures, since the Bills used to live by the turnover yet ranked in the bottom third of the league in that category. Despite having Bruce Smith, arguably the best pass rusher in the AFC, in their lineup, the Bills recorded an embarrassingly low 25 sacks. Only Denver and Tampa Bay had fewer. Since both Dan Marino of Miami and Drew Bledsoe of New England play in their division, the Bills had to do something.

What they did was sign Green Bay line-

backer Bryce Paup, Denver nose tackle Ted Washington, and Dallas end Jim Jeffcoat as free agents. Among them, Paup, Washington, and Jeffcoat had 18 sacks in 1994. No doubt that Washington and Jeffcoat represent risks. Washington suffered a severe ankle injury last season and has a rod in his leg. Jeffcoat is 34. But at this stage, the Bills have to take risks. Phillips will stay with the Bills' three-man front, which means that Washington, the biggest Buffalo lineman since Fred Smerlas, is expected to tie up traffic in the middle of the line and free Smith and his colleagues to perform their mischief. Phillips decided to use Paup over the tight end, where he lined up as a Packer, and move Cornelius Bennett to the other side, where "playing over air" may improve his disappointing total of five sacks. General manager John Butler had to use the "franchise player" designation on Bennett in order to keep him in Buffalo. His state of mind is uncertain.

The coming of Jeffcoat allows Phillips all sorts of pass-rush flexibility. The ex-Cowboy will play only on passing downs, but he can be used inside with Smith (10 sacks) and Phil Hansen (5.5) on the outside. Paup, whom Phillips also plans to move around, should do more blitzing than any Buffalo linebacker of the '90s. With Paup and Bennett on the outside, and top inside backer Marcus Patton gone to Washington, Mark Maddox's new inside partner will come from among Marlo Perry, Monty Brown, or two rookies, Damien Covington of North Caroli-

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Christie 110 points on 38 extra points and 24 field goals.....	T4th
RUSHING—Thomas, 1,093 yards on 287 carries, 3.8 avg., 7 TDs.....	4th
PASSING—Kelly, 285 of 448 attempts for 3,114 yards and 22 TDs.....	3rd
RECEIVING—Reed, 90 receptions for 1,303 yards, 14.5 avg., 8 TDs.....	2nd
INTERCEPTIONS—Darby, 4 for 20 yards, 5.0 average.....	T10th
PUNTING—Mohr, 67 punts, 41.8 avg., longest 71 yards.....	9th
PUNT RETURNS—Burris, 32 for 332 yards, 10.4 average.....	4th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Jourdain, 27 for 601 yards, 22.3 average.....	7th
SACKS—Smith, 10.0 sacks.....	T6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	29	At Dallas (N)
August	4	PITTSBURGH (N)
	12	vs. Dallas in Toronto (N)
	19	At Kansas City (N)
	25	ATLANTA (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	At Denver (N)	27-20
	10	CAROLINA	—
	17	INDIANAPOLIS	17-27
	24	OPEN DATE	—
October	2	At Cleveland (N)	—
	8	N.Y. JETS	3-23
	15	SEATTLE	—
	23	At New England (N)	38-35
	29	At Miami	42-31
November	5	At Indianapolis	9-10
	12	ATLANTA	—
	19	At N.Y. Jets	17-22
	26	NEW ENGLAND	17-41
December	3	At San Francisco (N)	—
	10	At St. Louis	—
	17	MIAMI	21-11
	24	HOUSTON	15-7

na State or John Holecek, the all-time-leading tackler for Illinois.

All the changes, particularly in the pass rush, should take some heat off the Bills' young secondary. Three of the four starting defensive backs are first-round draft choices of recent vintage, yet they seemed to regress in the second half of last season. Phillips plans to turn them loose, partially to buoy their confidence. The best of the bunch, strong safety Henry Jones, had just two interceptions. Right corner Thomas Smith, after a fast start, tapered off and had just one interception. Free safety Matt Darby led the team with four interceptions, but he didn't live up to his reputation as a hitter in his first season as a regular. Last year's top draftee, Jeff Burris, with a reputation for opportunism, moves into the starting job at left corner. The Bills drafted two more corners, Marlon Kerner, a hitter from Ohio State, and Ken Irvin of Memphis State.

The Bills may no longer be capable of eruptions for clusters of touchdowns, but they still finished 10th in the NFL in offense despite a constantly shifting situation in the offensive line. Kelly was the third-ranked AFC quarterback, with 22 touchdown passes and 3,114 yards. At this point of his career he is something of a statue, so it would be prudent to protect him better (34 sacks in '94). The team's quarterback of the future, Todd Collins of Michigan, was drafted. Collins is a work in progress, but with

interrupted by knee surgery. Russell Copeland, who caught 21 passes in a relief role, should be the third receiver. Rookie Justin Armour of Stanford could play a lot. The new starter at tight end is pro sophomore Lonnie Johnson. Another Stanford rookie, Tony Cline, has a chance to back up Johnson.

The top hand in the line remains center Kent Hull. John Fina returns at left tackle, but Glenn Parker, who belongs at guard, will have to remain out of position at right tackle. The No. 1 draft choice, Ruben Brown of Pitt, is expected to start immediately at guard opposite Corbin Lacina. There isn't much depth.

Thurman Thomas went over 1,000 yards (1,093) in rushing for the sixth straight season, but most of it came in the first half of the year. He caught 50 passes for 349 yards. There is a worry he is being worn down. Only Yonel Jourdain, a lightly experienced prospect, is behind him. The Bills keep saying they plan to make more use of the fullback, but it always turns out

to be in obvious blocking situations. There may be a change. If there is a thinness at tight end, Carwell Gardner or Nate Turner could play a lot more.

Kicker Steve Christie missed only four of his 28 field goals, although the season ended when his try for the game-winner in Indianapolis hit the crossbar in a 10-9 loss. The statistic that commands attention to punter Chris Mohr is his 36-yard net average in the tricky winds of Rich Stadium. Burris's 10.4-yard punt-return average was fourth in the AFC. The Bills seemed mystified by the new kickoffs rules, both on returns and coverage.

BUFFALO BILLS

Marv Levy, Head Coach
Elijah Pitts, Assistant Head Coach/
 Running Backs
Tom Bresnahan, Offensive Coordinator/
 Offensive Line
Wade Phillips, Defensive Coordinator
Ted Cottrell, Linebackers
Bruce DeHaven, Special Teams
Charlie Joiner, Wide Receivers
Rusty Jones, Strength & Conditioning
Don Lawrence, Offensive Quality Control/
 Tight Ends
Chuck Lester, Administrative Assistant to
 Head Coach/Assistant Linebackers
Dick Roach, Defensive backs
Dan Sekanovich, Defensive Line
Jim Shofner, Quarterbacks

THURMAN THOMAS

BRUCE SMITH

Frank Reich gone to Carolina, he is the man behind Kelly now.

Andre Reed had one of his more spectacular seasons with 90 catches, a 14.5-yard average, and eight touchdowns. Yet beyond Reed there is only inexperience. Of the 17 Bills who departed from last year's roster, four were wide receivers and tight ends. The departure of Pete Metzelaars, Don Beebe, and Bill Brooks equates to the loss of 131 receptions. Bucky Brooks, a top draft choice a year ago, is the main hope to stretch the field. His rookie season was

BILLS VETERAN ROSTER

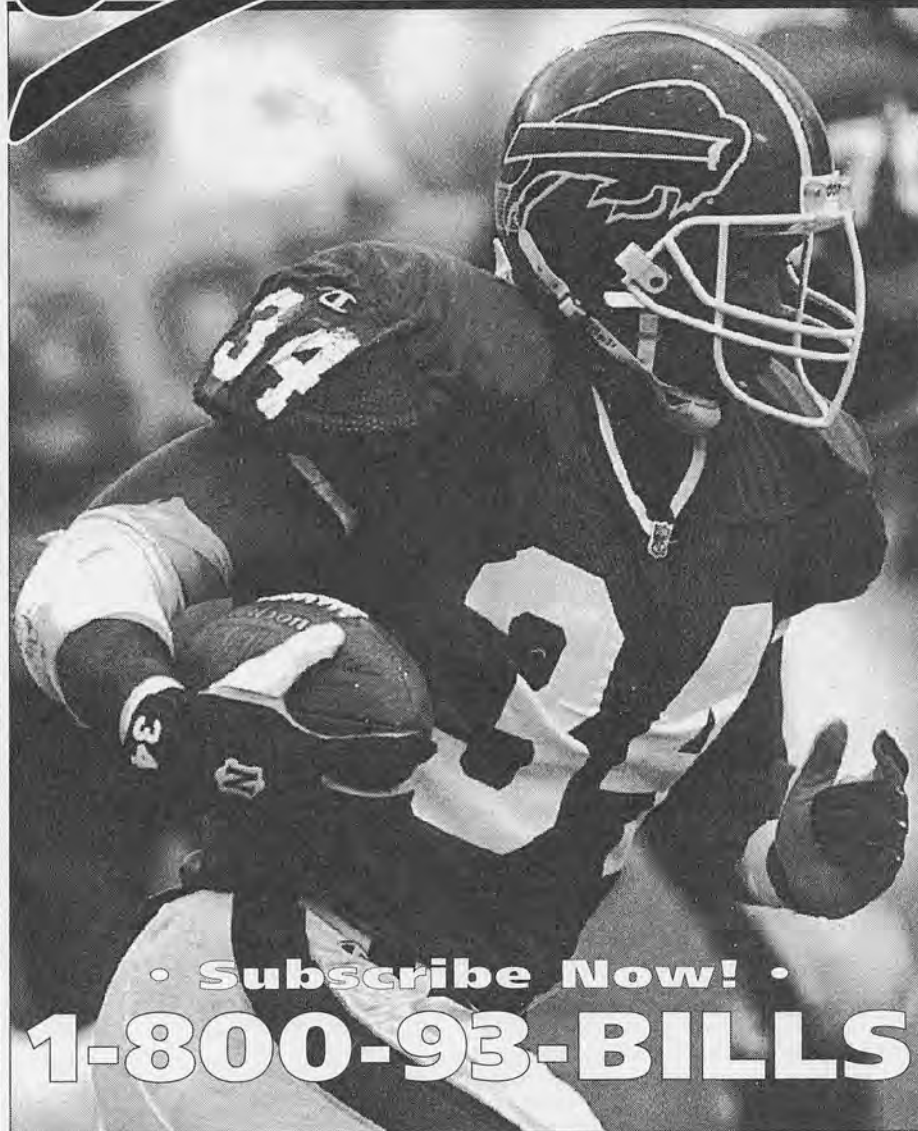
no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	238	29	Alabama
81	Brooks, Bucky	WR	5-11	186	25	No. Carolina
96	Brown, Monty	LB	6-0	228	26	Ferris State
22	Burris, Jeff	S	5-10	204	24	Notre Dame
2	Christie, Steve	K	6-0	185	28	Wm. & Mary
85	Copeland, Russell	WR	6-0	200	24	Memphis
43	Darby, Matt	S	6-1	200	27	UCLA
23	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	208	34	TCU
62	Devlin, Mike	C	6-1	293	26	Iowa
41	Evans, Greg	S	6-1	217	25	TCU
70	Fina, John	T	6-4	285	27	Arizona
35	Gardner, Carwell	RB	6-2	244	29	Louisville
90	Hansen, Phil	DE	6-5	278	28	No. Dakota St.
76	Hoyem, Steve	T	6-7	287	25	Stanford
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-5	284	35	Miss. St.
44	Humphrey, Bobby	RB	6-1	201	29	Alabama
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	276	34	Arizona State
39	Johnson, Filmel	CB	5-10	187	25	Illinois
84	Johnson, Lonnie	TE	6-3	235	25	Florida State
20	Jones, Henry	S	5-11	197	28	Illinois
30	Jourdain, Yonel	RB	5-11	204	25	So. Illinois
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	226	35	Miami
68	Lacina, Corbin	T	6-4	300	25	Augustana
63	Lingner, Adam	C	6-4	268	35	Illinois
72	Louchiey, Corey	T	6-7	309	24	So. Carolina
55	Maddox, Mark	LB	6-1	233	28	No. Michigan
9	Mohr, Chris	P	6-5	215	30	Alabama
86	Ofodile, A.J.	TE	6-7	260	22	Missouri
60	Ostroski, Jerry	G	6-4	310	25	Tulsa
74	Parker, Glenn	G	6-5	305	30	Arizona
99	Palton, James	NT	6-3	287	26	Texas
95	Paup, Bryce	LB	6-5	247	28	Northern Iowa
58	Perry, Marlo	LB	6-4	250	23	Jackson State
75	Philon, Ed	DT	6-2	273	26	Ferris State
94	Pike, Mark	DE	6-4	272	32	Georgia Tech
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-2	190	32	Kutztown St.
93	Rogers, Sam	LB	6-3	245	26	Colorado
24	Schulz, Kurt	S	6-1	208	27	E. Washington
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	273	33	Virginia Tech
28	Smith, Thomas	CB	5-11	188	25	No. Carolina
11	Strom, Rick	QB	6-2	197	31	Georgia Tech
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	181	34	Northwestern
82	Thomas, Damon	WR	6-2	215	25	Wayne State
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	30	Oklahoma St.
33	Tindale, Tim	RB	5-10	220	25	W. Ontario
21	Turner, Nate	RB	6-1	255	27	Nebraska
10	Van Pelt, Alex	QB	6-1	219	26	Pittsburgh
92	Washington, Ted	NT	6-4	295	28	Louisville
18	Williams, Tyrone	WR	6-5	207	26	W. Ontario

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Brown, Ruben	OG	6-3	305	Pittsburgh
2	Collins, Todd	QB	6-4	222	Michigan
3	Kerner, Marlon	CB	5-10	187	Ohio State
3	Covington, Damien	LB	6-0	238	N. C. State
4	Irvin, Ken	CB	5-10	180	Memphis
4	Armour, Justin	WR	6-5	221	Stanford
4	Cline, Tony	TE	6-5	252	Stanford
5	Holecek, John	LB	6-2	235	Illinois
6	Clavette, Shannon	DT	6-2	283	Colorado
7	Nutten, Tom	C	6-5	276	W. Michigan
7	Holmes, Darick	RB	6-0	221	Portland State

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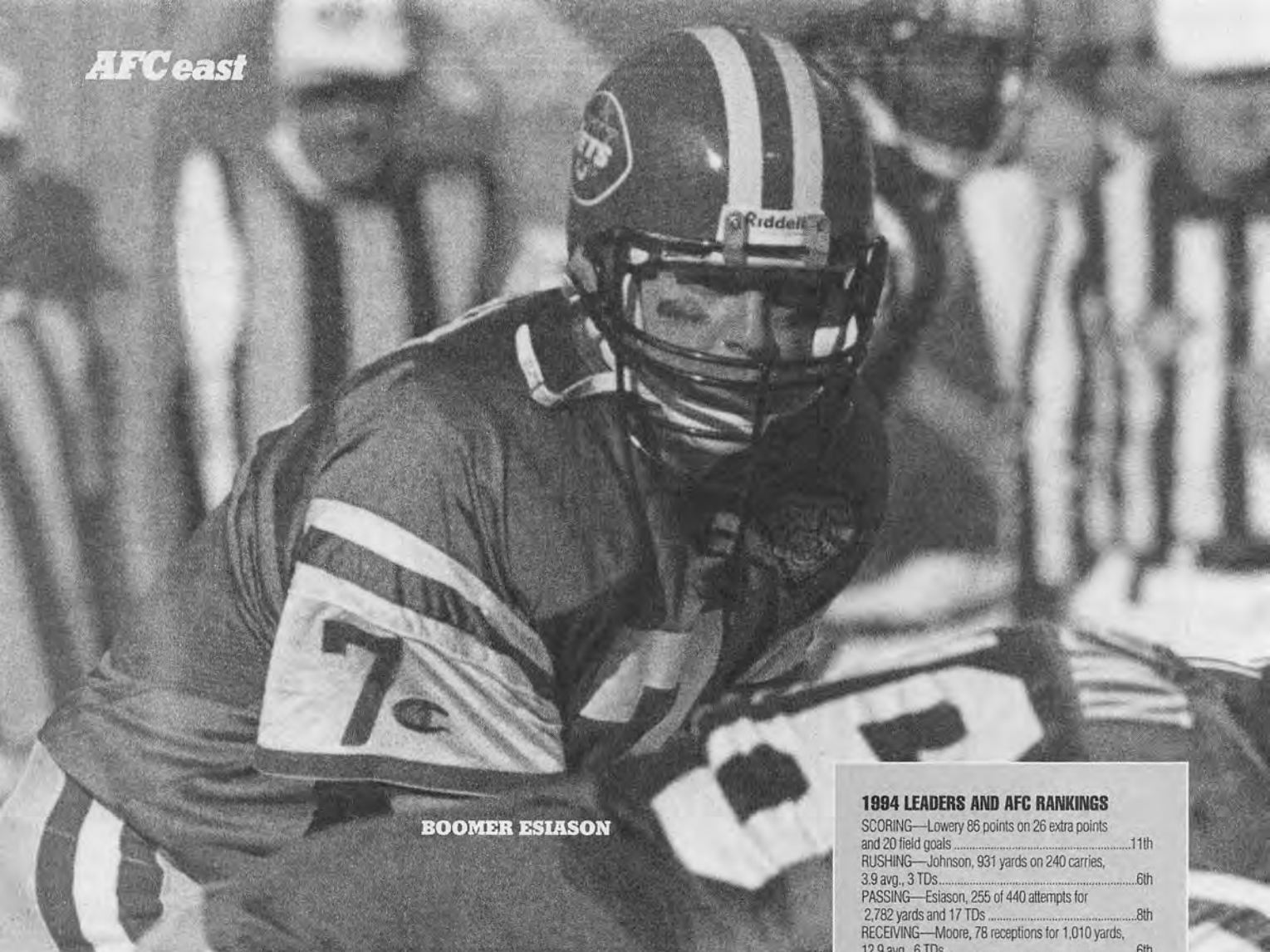
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BOOMER ESIASON

NEW YORK JETS

It was a cruel headline, even by the New York Post standards: "Dumb and Dumber."

It referred to the coaching change by the Jets, who dropped Pete Carroll as head coach after just one season and hired Richie Kotite, just jettisoned by Philadelphia. The Jets haven't won a division championship since the old AFL was merged with the NFL in 1970.

There is barely a newspaper story that does not refer to Leon Hess as "the team's 80-year-old owner." Hess used to be renowned for his patience. Now it seems impatience is the word. The offseason was a mess. The Jets lost four fifths of their offensive line. They traded their only star receiver, Rob Moore. They even got booed when they drafted a good player, Penn State tight end Kyle Brady, with their first selection. They already have a tight end, Johnny Mitchell, who they have been saying would become all-world.

One of Kotite's first moves after his arrival was to sign quarterback Bubby Brister, Randall Cunningham's backup in Philly, and suggest that he would either play ahead of Boomer Esiason or that he might even use a tandem system. Few who saw Brister in

Philly or Pittsburgh thought he would be much of an improvement over the declining Boomer. Quarterback tandems rarely work even on strong teams.

Kotite did a decent coaching job in Philly, despite his firing, and now he's in his comfort zone, a Brooklyn guy who went to college on Staten Island. What did him in with the Eagles was his insistence on running the draft. He was his own worst enemy with the picks. Kotite also ran this draft for the Jets, but the franchise had no choice. General manager Dick Steinberg was undergoing treatment for stomach cancer. As it turned out, the Jets ended up with some extremely promising rookies. Even then there was controversy. Brady was easily the most admired tight end in the draft, but why take him when Mitchell was already in place.

The Rob Moore trade brought another first-round pick, which the Jets used on Hugh Douglas, the Central State (OH) pass rusher who was too widely admired by NFL scouts to be a sleeper. He had 34 sacks the last two years at Central, but what wowed the pros was his performance in the Hula Bowl against the big guys. He was a 265-pound linebacker in college, never dropping into coverage. The Jets are alive with linebackers, so Douglas will be strictly a pass-rushing end. He'll have to play immediately because Jeff Lageman, the club's

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Lowery 86 points on 26 extra points and 20 field goals	11th
RUSHING—Johnson, 931 yards on 240 carries, 3.9 avg., 3 TDs	6th
PASSING—Esiason, 255 of 440 attempts for 2,782 yards and 17 TDs	8th
RECEIVING—Moore, 78 receptions for 1,010 yards, 12.9 avg., 6 TDs	6th
INTERCEPTIONS—Turner, 5 for 155 yards, 31.0 average, 1 TD	16th
Hasty, 5 for 90 yards, 18.0 average	16th
PUNTING—Hansen, 84 punts, 42.1 avg., longest 64 yards	8th
PUNT RETURNS—Hicks, 38 for 342 yards, .0 average	7th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Glenn, 27 for 582 yards, 21.6 average	9th
SACKS—Lageman, 6.5 sacks	119th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	At Tampa Bay (N)
	12	vs. Philadelphia at Jackson, MS (N)
	19	At N.Y. Giants (N)
	25	At Cincinnati (N)

1995 SCHEDULE 1994 SCORES

September	3	At Miami	14-28
	10	INDIANAPOLIS	16-6
	17	JACKSONVILLE	—
	24	At Atlanta	—
October	1	L.A. RAIDERS (N)	—
	8	At Buffalo	23-3
	15	At Carolina	—
	22	MIAMI	24-28
	29	At Indianapolis	25-28
November	5	NEW ENGLAND	24-17
	12	OPEN DATE	—
	19	BUFFALO	22-17
	26	At Seattle	—
December	3	ST. LOUIS	—
	10	At New England	13-24
	17	At Houston	10-24
	24	NEW ORLEANS	—

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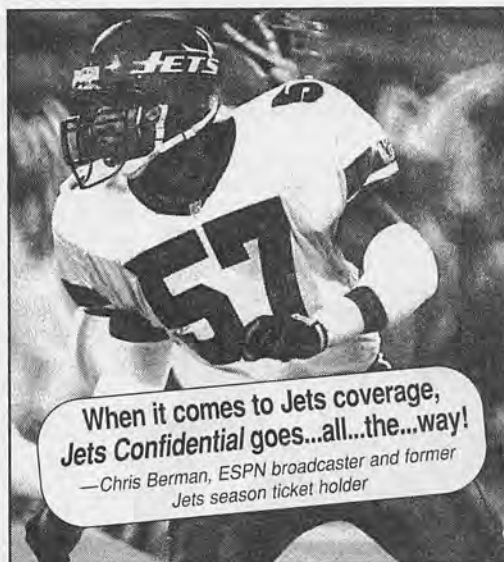
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most notable pass rusher, signed with Jacksonville. With the first pick of the second round came the toughest and meanest offensive lineman in the draft, Matt O'Dwyer of Northwestern, who could play either guard or tackle. Considering the defections in the offensive line, O'Dwyer should play immediately. The scouts compare his style with that of the Raiders' Pro Bowl guard, Steve Wisniewski.

The predraft deal that sent Rob Moore to Arizona brought running back Ron Moore, one of the league's coming stars, in return. Moore gained 780 yards for the Cards in an offense that was ranked lower than that of the Jets. The problem is that the Jets already have a former Cardinal back, Johnny Johnson, who gained 931 yards. Behind them are two other good backs, Adrian Murrell and Richie Anderson, each of whom averaged 4.8 yards per carry in limited playing time. So, for a while at least, the Jets have two starting running backs and two starting tight ends. But this is the new wave NFL, and rosters quite often are subject to radical change between the start of training camp and opening day. Kotite might even discover some promise in quarterback Glenn Foley, who got to throw just eight passes as a rookie, rather than tread water with Esiason or Brister.

It would not be a surprise to see a radical change among the receivers. Follow-

ing the Moore trade, the release of Art Monk, and the draft, the most experienced receiver on the roster was Ryan Yarbrough, who caught six passes in his rookie season. Orlando Parker and Stevie Anderson are prospects. Some sort of double-tight-end setup is possible since Mitchell, who had a 58-catch season, is primarily a receiver. The problem is, he does it in spurts. Esiason went public with criticism that was aimed at least in part at Mitchell last season.

On the surface, what happened to the offensive line during the offseason seems suicidal. The Jets allowed the fewest sacks in the league last year and ranked ninth in

rushing. Yet the only survivor from that unit is Siupeli Malamala, whom they would like to switch to guard but is too valuable at tackle. Cal Dixon moves into the center spot occupied by Jim Sweeney for 158 consecutive games. James Brown will be a starting tackle and Roger Duffy a guard. It would be an upset if O'Dwyer isn't opposite him. Considering the inexperience on the line, blocking contributions from the fullback and tight end are essential. The Jets made it a priority to re-sign fullback Brad Baxter. Now they must refine the blocking techniques of Brady, whose work at Penn State was effective but not the sort used in the pros.

Kotite refuses to use the word "rebuilding" to describe the Jets—and who can blame him since he is the third head coach in three years. But this is a much younger team whose rising stars, cornerback Aaron Glenn and linebackers Marvin Jones and Mo Lewis, are on defense. The franchise hasn't had a Pro Bowler in five years, but Lewis, who returned two interceptions for touchdowns, is worthy and Jones may be ready to produce this season. The third starting linebacker, Bobby Houston, is versatile and talented.

NEW YORK JETS

Rich Kotite, Head Coach
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Chip Falivene, Assistant to Head Coach
Tom Gamble, Defensive Assistant
Peter Guinta, Secondary
Richard Mann, Receivers
Bill Muir, Offensive Line
Ken Rose, Special Teams
Jim Vechiarella, Defensive Coordinator/
 Linebackers
Jim Williams, Strength & Conditioning
Dick Wood, Running Backs



JOHNNY JOHNSON



JOHNNY MITCHELL

Glenn will be joined by two free-agent safeties in the secondary, hard-hitting Gary Jones of Pittsburgh and Todd Scott of Minnesota. Marcus Turner, who had a 90-yard touchdown among his five interceptions, may play the other corner. Donald Evans moves outside on the defensive line and should form a pincer movement with Douglas against the pass. Ex-Giant Erik Howard will line up inside next to Tony Casillas.

Free agent Dexter Carter of San Francisco, who ran a kickoff back 96 yards for a touchdown a year ago, should put more punch in the return game. Nick Lowery, one of the all-time great kickers when he was a Chief, showed he had life left by converting 20 of his 23 field-goal attempts.

JETS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
20	Anderson, Richie	RB	6-2	215	24	Penn State
88	Anderson, Stevie	WR	6-5	205	26	Grambling
98	Barber, Kurt	LB	6-4	249	27	USC
30	Baxter, Brad	FB	6-1	235	29	Alabama State
84	Baxter, Fred	TE	6-3	260	25	Auburn
78	Bentatti, Lou	DT	6-3	278	25	Penn State
6	Brister, Bobby	QB	6-3	207	33	NE Louisiana
94	Brock, Matt	DE	6-5	280	30	Oregon
76	Brown, James	T	6-6	321	26	Virginia State
50	Cadrez, Glenn	LB	6-3	240	26	Houston
	Carter, Dexter	RB	5-9	174	28	Florida State
92	Casillas, Tony	DT	6-3	273	32	Oklahoma
59	Clifton, Kyle	LB	6-4	236	33	TCU
52	Dixon, Cal	C	6-4	284	26	Florida
62	Duffy, Roger	G	6-3	285	28	Penn State
7	Esiason, Boomer	QB	6-5	220	35	Maryland
66	Evans, Donald	DE	6-2	282	32	Win. Salem
14	Foley, Glenn	QB	6-2	205	25	Boston Col.
80	Garlick, Tom	WR	5-11	180	24	Fordham
31	Glenn, Aaron	CB	5-9	185	23	Texas A&M
21	Green, Victor	CB	5-9	195	26	Akron
11	Hansen, Brian	P	6-4	215	35	Sioux Falls
55	Houston, Bobby	LB	6-2	245	28	N. C. State
	Howard, Erik	DT	6-4	268	31	Washington St.
39	Johnson, Johnny	RB	6-3	220	28	San Jose St.
49	Johnson, Troy	LB	6-2	236	31	Oklahoma
25	Jones, Gary	S	6-2	215	28	Texas A&M
54	Jones, Marvin	LB	6-2	240	24	Florida State
35	Lester, Fred	RB	6-1	241	24	Alabama A&M
57	Lewis, Mo	LB	6-3	250	26	Georgia
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	205	40	Dartmouth
75	Malamala, Siupeli	T	6-5	315	27	Washington
74	McIver, Everett	T	6-6	315	25	Elizabeth City
86	Mitchell, Johnny	TE	6-3	237	25	Nebraska
	Moore, Ron	RB	5-10	220	25	Pittsburgh St.
29	Murrell, Adrian	RB	5-11	212	25	West Virginia
95	Oglesby, Alfred	DT	6-3	285	29	Houston
89	Parker, Orlando	WR	5-11	190	24	Troy State
71	Pickel, Bill	DT	6-5	265	36	Rutgers
37	Prior, Anthony	CB	5-11	185	26	Washington St.
38	Scott, Todd	S	5-10	207	28	SW Louisiana
	Smith, Otis	CB	5-11	184	30	Missouri
27	Terrell, Pat	S	6-0	195	28	Notre Dame
80	Thornton, James	TE	6-2	242	31	Fullerton state
23	Turner, Marcus	CB	6-0	190	30	UCLA
97	Washington, Marvin	DE	6-6	272	30	Idaho
77	Willig, Matt	T	6-8	305	27	USC
72	Wisdom, Terrence	G	6-4	305	24	Syracuse
87	Yarbrough, Ryan	WR	6-2	190	25	Wyoming

DRAFTIES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Brady, Kyle	TE	6-6	257	Penn State
1	Douglas, Hugh	DE	6-2	265	Central State
2	O'Dwyer, Matt	OG	6-4	302	Northwestern
4	Hayes, Melvin	OT	6-6	324	Mississippi State
4	Davis, Tyrone	WR	6-4	232	Virginia
5	Greenwood, Carl	S	5-11	190	UCLA
6	Mason, Eddie	LB	5-11	231	North Carolina
7	Ceaser, Curtis	WR	6-2	190	Grambling

AFC central

BAM MORRIS

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

These are NOT the Steel Curtain Steelers of old, which makes it difficult to determine whether they are capable of making a full recovery from that egg they laid in the AFC championship game against San Diego. It wasn't just the fact that they lost, it was how. There was a full-blown loss of composure. Cornerback Tim McKyer was so distraught he had to be helped off the field. Pass-rush ace Kevin Greene lay on the floor of the dressing room, threatening any member of the press who asked him a question. This was the bunch that had released a "Super Bowl video" just days before. There are no Lamberts, Greenes, Hams, Mad Dog Whites, or Francos on this roster. There is enough talent, however, to win the AFC Central again. Whatever happens after that would be something of a mystery.

The free-agent losses were deeper than the gains. Eric Green, one of the best tight ends in the business, defected to Miami after crabbing about the conservative running style of the Steelers. Starting guard Duval Love went to Arizona, safety Gary Jones to the Jets, and reserve lineman Gerald Williams to Carolina. Signed were Atlanta running back Erric Pegram and Indianapolis punter Rohn Stark. At best, Pegram will share time with Bam Morris.

The Steelers may have a more conservative offense than last year, when they finished first in the NFL running the ball and 23rd passing it. There were 48 AFC receivers who caught more passes than Pittsburgh's leading wideout, Charles Johnson, who had 38 in a quiet rookie year. Under offensive coordinator Ron Erhardt, the idea is to pound the ball and play strong defense. The leading receivers were fullback John L. Williams, who caught 51, and Green, with 46.

Quarterback Neil O'Donnell is valued for what he doesn't do rather than for what he might produce. What he doesn't do much is get intercepted. He threw just 13 touchdown passes last year, but even fewer interceptions (9). O'Donnell knows his limitations, but he comes up big in more games than he gets credit for. After Erhardt painstakingly schooled Mike Tomczak in how not to force the ball, Tomczak supervised two big victories against Miami and the Raiders.

With Barry Foster grown too injury-prone and too expensive, Bam Morris became the feature runner in the second half of the season. He rushed for 836 yards, just 15 fewer than Foster in 18 fewer carries. Pegram is capable of a similar number. Any Pittsburgh runner will get plenty of work. Williams is basically a blocker/receiver, but he gained 317 yards and averaged 4.7 yards per carry as a change-of-pace runner.

The studs in the offensive line are center Dermontti Dawson and tackles John Jackson and Leon Searcy. Jackson is a solid run blocker who sometimes has trou-

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Anderson 104 points on 32 extra points and 24 field goals.....	9th
RUSHING—Foster, 851 yards on 216 carries, 3.9 avg., 5 TDs.....	9th
PASSING—O'Donnell, 212 of 370 attempts for 2,443 yards and 13 TDs.....	7th
RECEIVING—Williams, 51 receptions for 378 yards, 7.4 avg., 2 TDs.....	125th
INTERCEPTIONS—Perry, 7 for 112 yards, 16.0 average.....	T3rd
PUNTING—Royals, 97 punts, 39.7 avg., longest 64 yards.....	13th
PUNT RETURNS—Woodson, 39 for 319 yards, 8.2 average.....	10th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Morris, 4 for 114 yards, 28.5 average.....	unranked
SACKS—Greene, 14.0 sacks.....	1st

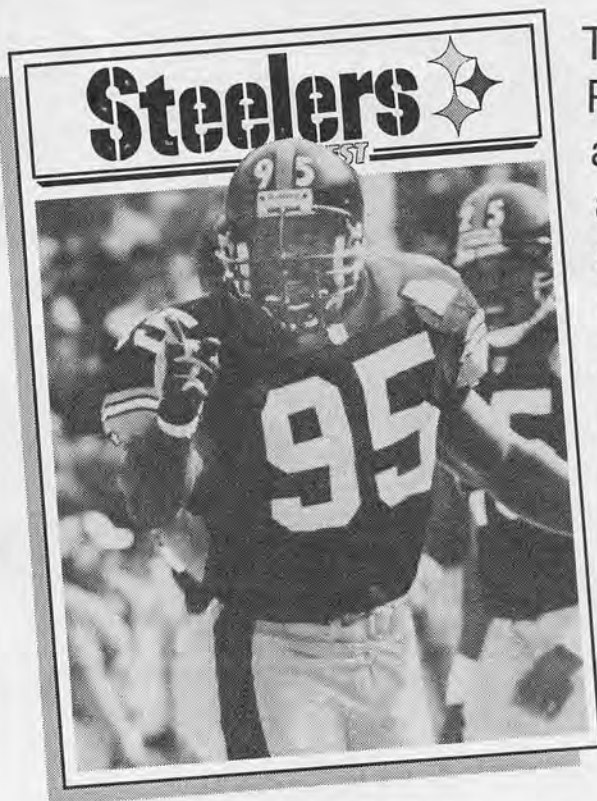
PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	4	At Buffalo (N)
	13	GREEN BAY
	19	At Tampa Bay (N)
	24	PHILADELPHIA (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

		1994 SCORES
September	3	DETROIT.....
	10	At Houston.....12-9
	18	At Miami (N).....16-13
	24	MINNESOTA.....
October	1	SAN DIEGO.....34-37
	8	At Jacksonville.....
	19	CINCINNATI (N).....14-10
	29	JACKSONVILLE.....
November	5	At Chicago.....
	13	CLEVELAND (N).....17-7
	19	At Cincinnati.....38-15
	26	At Cleveland.....17-10
December	3	HOUSTON.....30-14
	10	At L.A. Raiders.....21-3
	16	NEW ENGLAND.....
	24	At Green Bay.....

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S&S-P

ble against speed rushers. Searcy looks like the whole package in his fourth pro season. The guards are another story. Last year the Steelers had to replace Carlton Haselrig because of the troubled star's personal problems. Now they have to deal with the loss of Love. Todd Kalis replaced Haselrig until he was injured late in the year. Ex-Ram Tom Newberry or Justin Strzelczyk could step in for Love, but the Steelers would prefer to keep the latter as a valuable sixth man since he can play guard or tackle. It may be a display of their anxiety, but the deep thinkers on the club were hoping Haselrig would straighten himself out in time to return for opening day.

Green's blocking may be missed more than his receiving. That's why Mark Bruener of the University of Washington was made the top draftee. "He reminds me of Mark Bavaro," said Erhardt. "He just has the tight end's frame." He's also a colossal blocker who should start right away. If head coach Bill Cowher has some gambler's spirit, he could cross up a lot of teams by starting to

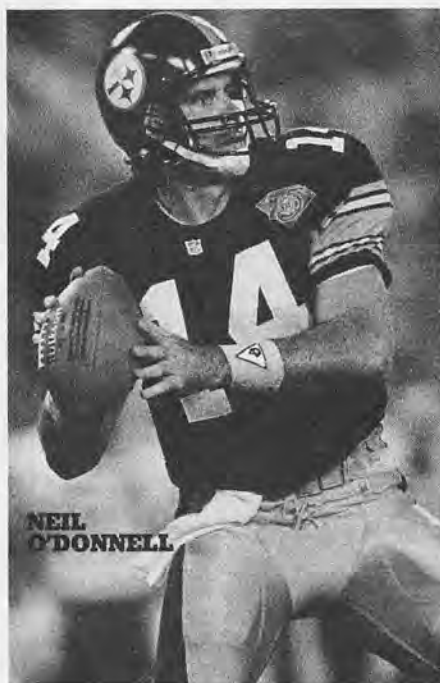
make wider use of his wideouts. Johnson averaged 15.2 yards on his 38 catches, Ernie Mills had consecutive 100-yard receiving games in the playoffs, and Yancey Thigpen averaged 15.2 on his 36 catches.

The Steelers were the top-ranked defensive team in the AFC and led the NFL with 55 sacks. The pass rush begins with the towering outside linebackers, Kevin Greene and Greg Lloyd. Greene led the NFL with 14 sacks after coming from the Rams and Lloyd had 10 to set the competitive tone. The Steelers also will come at a quarterback from the inside. Linebacker Chad Brown had 8.5 sacks and Jason Gildon showed great possibilities as a rookie. Levon Kirkland and everyone else plays the run admirably. Hall of Famer Jack Ham credits tackle Joel Steed with improving the pass rush by pushing the protective pocket. Tackle Ray Seals, the ex-Buc, contributed seven sacks. Brentson Buckner came on strong in the second half after losing weight and beat out Williams for a starting job.

The starting defensive backs are all solid. Rod Woodson reigns as the AFC's best cornerback and Deon Figures played well as a rookie on the other side. Strong safety Carnell Lake made the Pro Bowl and free safety Darren Perry should have.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Bill Cowher, Head Coach
Bobby April, Special Teams Coach
Ron Erhardt, Offensive Coordinator
Chan Gailey, Wide Receivers Coach
Dick Hoak, Running Backs Coach
Pat Hodgson, Tight Ends Coach
Dick LeBeau, Defensive Coordinator
Marvin Lewis, Linebackers Coach
Tim Lewis, Defensive Backs Coach
John Mitchell, Defensive Line Coach
Kent Stephenson, Offensive Line Coach



NEIL O'DONNELL



CARNELL LAKE



ROD WOODSON

Beyond them, it gets thin, especially with Gary Jones gone. That's why three defensive backs—Lethon Flowers of Georgia Tech, Lance Brown of Indiana, and Barron Miles of Nebraska—were drafted.

The draft also included Colorado quarterback Kordell Stewart, the No. 2 pick, Nebraska guard Brenden Stai, Notre Dame defensive end Oliver Gibson, and Nebraska linebacker Donta Jones.

STEELERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
43	Avery, Steve	RB	6-2	226	29	N. Michigan
	Barnes, Johnnie	WR	6-1	180	27	Hampton
40	Bell, Myron	S	5-11	203	24	Michigan St.
94	Brown, Chad	LB	6-2	231	25	Colorado
96	Buckner, Brentson	DE	6-2	305	24	Clemson
23	Daigle, Anthony	RB	5-10	198	26	Fresno State
63	Dawson, Dermontti	C	6-2	286	31	Kentucky
78	Faumu, Taase	DE	6-3	278	25	Hawaii
21	Figures, Deon	CB	6-0	203	26	Colorado
29	Foster, Barry	RB	5-10	218	27	Arkansas
60	Gammon, Kendall	C	6-4	286	27	Pittsburg St.
92	Gildon, Jason	LB	6-3	237	23	Oklahoma St.
91	Greene, Kevin	LB	6-3	247	33	Auburn
88	Hastings, Andre	WR	6-0	190	25	Georgia
85	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	248	33	Iowa
76	Henry, Kevin	DE	6-4	270	27	Miss. State
65	Jackson, John	T	6-6	297	31	E. Kentucky
81	Johnson, Charles	WR	6-0	189	24	Colorado
62	Kalis, Todd	G	6-5	291	31	Arizona State
87	Keith, Craig	TE	6-3	254	25	Lenoir-Rhyne
99	Kirkland, Levon	LB	6-1	252	27	Clemson
37	Lake, Carnell	S	6-1	210	28	UCLA
95	Lloyd, Greg	LB	6-2	226	31	Fort Valley St.
56	Mack, Rico	LB	6-4	242	25	Appal. St.
86	Mays, Damon	WR	5-9	170	28	Missouri
35	McAfee, Fred	RB	5-10	195	28	Miss. Coll.
16	Miller, Jim	QB	6-2	226	25	Michigan St.
89	Mills, Ernie	WR	5-11	192	27	Florida
33	Morris, Bam	RB	6-0	235	24	Texas Tech
64	Newberry, Tom	G	6-2	285	33	Wi.-La Crosse
14	O'Donnell, Neil	QB	6-3	230	29	Maryland
	Oldham, Chris	CB	5-10	195	27	Oregon
55	Olsavsky, Jerry	LB	6-1	222	29	Pittsburgh
66	Palelele, Lonnie	G	6-3	322	25	UNLV
62	Parrish, James	T	6-6	315	28	Temple
	Pegram, Erric	RB	5-9	188	27	North Texas
39	Perry, Darren	S	5-11	196	27	Penn State
84	Rasby, Walter	TE	6-3	247	23	Wake Forest
57	Ravotti, Eric	LB	6-3	254	25	Penn State
51	Robinson, Ed	LB	6-0	228	25	Florida
97	Seals, Ray	DE	6-3	309	31	NONE
72	Searcy, Leon	T	6-3	304	26	Miami
61	Simpson, Tim	G	6-2	296	27	Illinois
69	Solomon, Ariel	G	6-5	290	27	Colorado
3	Stark, Rohn	P	6-3	203	37	Florida State
93	Steed, Joel	NT	6-2	295	27	Colorado
20	Stone, Dwight	WR	6-0	180	32	Middle Tenn.
73	Strzelczyk, Justin	G	6-6	295	27	Maine
82	Thigpen, Yancey	WR	6-1	208	26	Win. -Salem
18	Tomczak, Mike	QB	6-1	195	33	Ohio State
44	Toner, Ed	RB	6-0	240	28	Boston Col.
22	Williams, John L.	RB	5-11	231	31	Florida
27	Williams, Willie	CB	5-9	185	25	W. Carolina
26	Woodson, Rod	CB	6-0	200	31	Purdue
90	Zgonina, Jeff	DT	6-1	287	26	Purdue

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Bruener, Mark	TE	6-4	251	Washington
2	Stewart, Kordell	QB	6-1	212	Colorado
3	Stai, Brenden	OG	6-4	304	Nebraska
4	Gibson, Oliver	DT	6-2	283	Notre Dame
4	Jones, Donta	LB	6-2	226	Nebraska
5	Flowers, Lethon	S	5-11	200	Georgia Tech
5	Brown, Lance	S	6-0	202	Indiana
6	Miles, Barron	CB	5-9	172	Nebraska
7	Bailey, Henry	WR	5-8	174	UNLV
7	Ford, Cole	K	6-1	205	USC



VINNY TESTAVERDE

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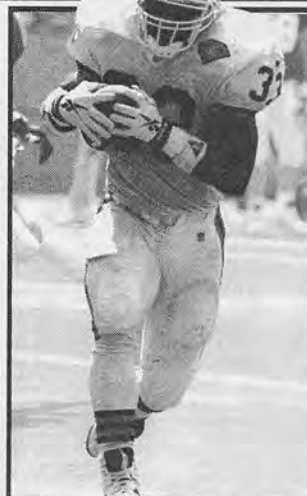
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CLEVELAND BROWNS

The Browns are a difficult team to figure in the Bill Belichick era. Last year they won 11 games, a figure exceeded only by Pittsburgh in the AFC. Then they went to the playoffs and defeated New England in the wild-card game. The future appeared rosy. The Browns even maneuvered themselves into good position in the draft, dealing long-time game-breaker Eric Metcalf to Atlanta, which brought them the 10th selection of the first



round. Their quarry was Kyle Brady, the Penn State tight end, whom they saw as the overdue successor to Ozzie Newsome.

Then the New York Jets stunned them and everyone else by picking Brady with the No. 9 selection. The Browns reacted as if John Elway had just led one of those killer, game-ending 80-yard drives against them. Distraught, they dealt themselves down to the No. 30 spot in the first round, where they took Ohio State linebacker Craig Powell, a speedy kid who left school early and might or might not be ready to play in 1996.

It was the biggest case of draft panic in memory, especially since Cleveland has to replace Metcalf, plus starting defensive tackle Michael Dean Perry, starting linebacker Frank Stams, defensive lineman James Jones, wide receiver Mark Carrier, and special-teams' demon Randy Baldwin.

Owner Art Modell says personnel chief Mike Lombardi assured him no one remaining on the draft board after Brady was chosen was going to be an impact pick. That would include J.J. Stokes, whom the 49ers took after dealing with Cleveland; defensive linemen Ellis Johnson, Derrick Alexander, Warren Sapp, and Luther Ellis; offensive tackle Korey Stringer, linebacker Mark Fields, and running back Tyrone Wheatley. For Lombardi's own sake, he better hope none of those has a big rookie year.

It just didn't make sense for Cleveland to become passive when it is on the verge of great possibilities. The Browns and the Houston Oilers are the only teams in existence when the Super Bowl was founded not to have played in one. The Browns' situ-

ation is fairly fragile, considering the player losses and the fact they have put so many eggs in quarterback Vinny Testaverde's basket. Testaverde produced for Cleveland as he hadn't for Tampa Bay, but few NFL watchers think that Vinny now can carry a team himself. Maybe the Browns can continue to win with him, as long as he is surrounded by a strong cast. The question is whether the 1995 cast is as strong as the previous one?

Testaverde, the 11th-ranked AFC passer, threw for 2,575 yards and 16 touchdowns. He was intercepted 18 times, however, and his 4.8 interception ratio was by far the worst in the AFC. Yet in the playoff victory against New England, none of Testaverde's 30 passes were picked off, which proved to Belichick that, under the proper controls, he would be a winner. Well, maybe Belichick wasn't entirely convinced since the Browns spent a large portion of the winter attempting to sign Phil Simms, the ex-Giant, as Vinny's backup and guru. Simms finally chose to stay in television.

The one major fee-agent stroke was the signing of Andre Rison, Atlanta's star receiver. Rison caught 81 passes and scored eight times in the Falcons' run-and-shoot offense. He's been a producer wherever he played and he could make a major player out of Testaverde. The problem is that the Browns need more. They could get some of it with late signings, as they did a year ago. Wide receiver Derrick Alexander caught 48 passes, aver-

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Bill Belichick, Head Coach
Ernie Adams, Special Assignments
Jim Bates, Defensive Assistant
Jacob Burney, Defensive Line
Steve Crosby, Offensive Coordinator
Kirk Ferentz, Offensive Line
Pat Hill, Tight Ends/Offensive Line Coach
Scott O'Brien, Special Teams
Mike Sheppard, Receivers
John Settle, Offensive Assistant
Jerry Simmons, Strength & Conditioning
Rick Venturi, Defensive Coordinator

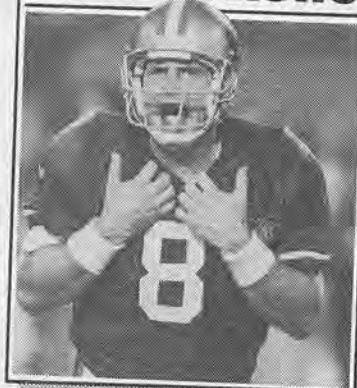
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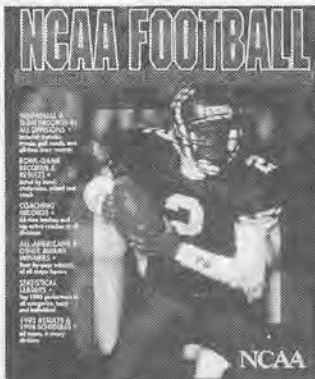
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aging 17.3 yards, as a rookie, prompting offensive coordinator Steve Crosby to predict, "If he continues to go about his business the way he has been, there are no limits to what he can accomplish. He's come light years as a player." Michael Jackson caught only 21 balls during the regular season, but he saved his best for the playoffs with a 122-yard day against the Patriots. After the draft-day disaster, the Browns are reduced to hoping Walter Reeves comes back healthy at tight end. Leroy Hoard's 890 yards were the most by a Cleveland back in several seasons. He also caught 45 passes. The Browns need Hoard to be consistent since there



ANDRE RISON



CRAIG POWELL



STEVE EVERITT

remains a worry about Tommy Vardell's repaired knee. With Metcalf and Baldwin gone, there is no change-of-pace runner.

Steve Everitt is developing into one of the league's better centers, but left tackle Tony Jones considered retirement last winter when his elbow injury did not respond to surgery. Doug Dawson and Bob Dahl are the guards with Orlando Brown at right tackle. It would help if massive Herman Arvie had a big year.

With Perry gone, Rob Burnett, who led the team with 10 sacks, could move inside on the defensive line. There is a need for end Dan Footman's development to accelerate. Bill Johnson is dependable at tackle and Anthony Pleasant had 4.5 sacks from right end. End Mike Frederick of Virginia comes via the draft, but what's really needed is a contribution from second-year man Romeo Bandison. Mike Caldwell takes Stams's outside linebacking job. Belichick gets savvy from Pepper Johnson in the middle and Carl Banks on the outside, but not much movement. There is work available for youngsters Travis Hill and Gerald Dixon.

The strength of the defense, however, is in the secondary with the AFC's top interceptor and big-time hitter, Eric Turner, at free safety. Second-year corner back Antonio Langham may join Turner in the Pro Bowl soon. Don Griffin is the right corner and

Stevon Moore the strong safety. The Browns also like tall young cornerback Issac Booth, who provides versatility along with Tim Jacobs and Louis Riddick.

The return game was wiped out by the losses of Metcalf and Baldwin. Matt Stover made 26 of 28 field goals and punter Tom Tupa dropped 27 kicks inside the 20-yard line.

BROWNS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
85	Alexander, Derrick	WR	6-2	195	24	Michigan
70	Arvie, Herman	T	6-4	305	25	Grambling
97	Bandison, Romeo	DT	6-4	286	25	Oregon
58	Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	33	Michigan St.
64	Bedosky, Mike	G	6-4	289	25	Missouri
36	Booth, Isaac	CB	6-3	183	25	California
77	Brown, Orlando	T	6-7	325	25	S. C. State
90	Burnett, Rob	DE	6-4	280	28	Syracuse
20	Byner, Earnest	RB	5-10	218	33	East Carolina
56	Caldwell, Mike	LB	6-2	235	24	Mid. Tenn. St.
72	Dahl, Bob	G	6-5	300	27	Notre Dame
69	Dawson, Doug	G	6-3	288	34	Texas
60	Devries, Jed	T	6-5	282	25	Utah State
51	Dixon, Gerald	LB	6-3	250	27	So. Carolina
95	Dixon, Ronnie	NT	6-2	292	25	Cincinnati
61	Everitt, Steve	C	6-5	290	25	Michigan
78	Footman, Dan	DE	6-5	290	27	Florida State
72	Goad, Tim	NT	6-3	280	30	No. Carolina
8	Goebel, Brad	QB	6-3	198	28	Baylor
28	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	32	Mid. Tenn. St.
31	Hairston, Stacey	CB	5-9	180	28	Ohio Northern
28	Hall, Dana	S	6-2	206	26	Washington
48	Hartley, Frank	TE	6-2	268	28	Illinois
39	Harvey, Frank	RB	6-0	245	25	Georgia
93	Hill, Travis	LB	6-1	240	26	Nebraska
33	Hoard, Leroy	RB	5-11	225	28	Michigan
81	Jackson, Michael	WR	6-4	195	27	S. Mississippi
41	Jacobs, Tim	CB	5-10	185	26	Delaware
94	Johnson, Bill	DT	6-4	290	27	Michigan St.
98	Johnson, Mario	DT	6-3	288	26	Missouri
52	Johnson, Pepper	LB	6-3	248	32	Ohio State
24	Jones, Reginald	CB	6-1	202	27	Memphis
66	Jones, Tony	T	6-5	295	30	W. Carolina
88	Kinchen, Brian	TE	6-2	240	30	LSU
38	Langham, Antonio	CB	6-0	180	23	Alabama
95	Lyle, Rick	DE	6-5	275	25	Missouri
87	McCardell, Keenan	WR	6-1	175	26	UNLV
99	McKenzie, Rich	LB	6-2	227	25	Penn State
80	McLemore, Thomas	TE	6-5	245	26	Southern
27	Moore, Stevon	S	5-11	210	29	Mississippi
98	Pleasant, Anthony	DE	6-5	280	29	Tennessee St.
34	Powers, Ricky	RB	6-0	205	24	Michigan
89	Reeves, Walter	TE	6-4	270	30	Auburn
42	Riddick, Louis	S	6-2	215	27	Pittsburgh
80	Rison, Andre	WR	6-1	188	29	Michigan St.
11	Rypien, Mark	QB	6-4	234	33	Washington St.
75	Sagapolutele, Pio	DT	6-6	297	26	San Diego St.
79	Schad, Mike	G	6-5	290	32	Queens Col.
84	Smith, Rico	WR	6-0	185	27	Colorado
3	Stover, Matt	K	5-11	178	28	La. Tech
54	Sutter, Eddie	LB	6-3	235	26	Northwestern
12	Testaverde, Vinny	QB	6-5	215	32	Miami
41	Thomas, Johnny	CB	5-9	191	31	Baylor
37	Thompson, Bennie	S	6-0	214	33	Grambling
7	Tupa, Tom	P	6-4	230	30	Ohio State
29	Turner, Eric	S	6-1	207	27	UCLA
44	Vardell, Tommy	RB	6-2	230	27	Stanford
	White, Lorenzo	RB	5-11	222	30	Michigan St.
62	Williams, Gene	T	6-2	305	27	Iowa State
63	Williams, Wally	C	6-2	300	25	Florida A&M

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Powell, Craig	LB	6-4	224	Ohio State
3	Zeier, Eric	QB	6-0	208	Georgia
3	Frederick, Mike	DE	6-5	278	Virginia
5	Pupua, Tau	DT	6-4	275	Weber State
5	Miller, Mike	WR	5-7	157	Notre Dame
7	Tellison, A.C.	WR	6-2	205	Miami

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING	—Stover 110 points on 32 extra points and 26 field goals	T4th
RUSHING	—Hoard, 890 yards on 209 carries, 4.3 avg., 5 TDs	7th
PASSING	—Testaverde, 207 of 376 attempts for 2,575 yards and 16 TDs	11th
RECEIVING	—Alexander, 48 receptions for 828 yards, 17.3 avg., 2 TDs	T32nd
INTERCEPTIONS	—Turner, 9 for 199 yards, 22.1 average, 1 TD	1st
PUNTING	—Tupa, 80 punts, 40.1 avg., longest 65 yards	12th
PUNT RETURNS	—Metcalf, 35 for 348 yards, 9.9 average	5th
KICKOFF RETURNS	—Baldwin, 28 for 753 yards, 26.9 average, 1 TD	1st
SACKS	—Burnett, 10.0 sacks	T6th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

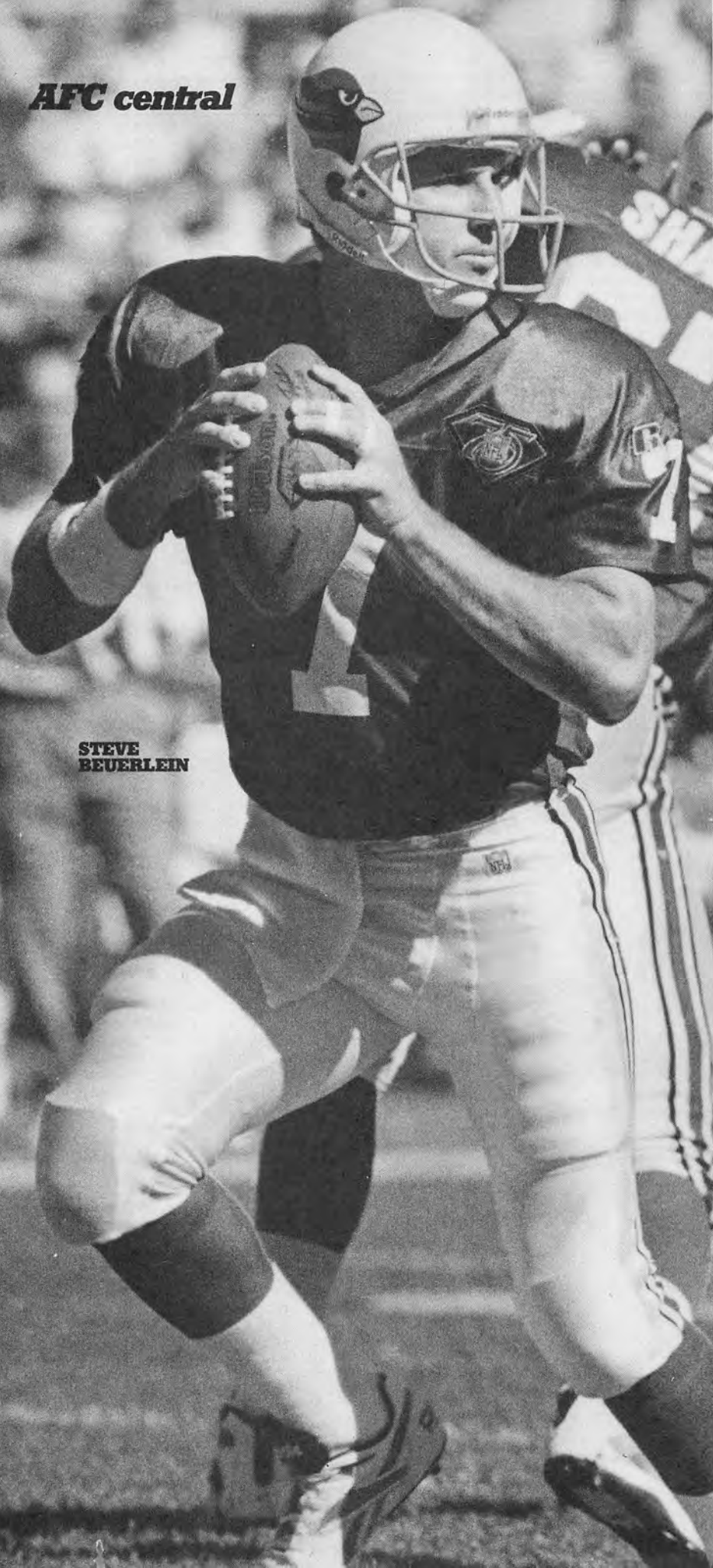
August	6	N.Y. GIANTS
	14	CHICAGO (N)
	19	At Atlanta (N)
	25	At Arizona (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	At New England	13-6
	10	TAMPA BAY	—
	17	At Houston	11-8
	24	KANSAS CITY	13-20
October	2	BUFFALO (N)	—
	8	At Detroit	—
	15	OPEN DATE	—
	22	JACKSONVILLE	—
	29	At Cincinnati	28-20
November	5	HOUSTON	34-10
	13	At Pittsburgh (N)	7-17
	19	GREEN BAY	—
	26	PITTSBURGH	10-17
December	3	At San Diego	—
	9	At Minnesota	—
	17	CINCINNATI	37-13
	24	At Jacksonville	—

1994 SCORES

AFC central



**STEVE
BEUERLEIN**

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Ever since the NFL owners surprised the rest of the nation and picked Jacksonville as the AFC expansion city, almost everything has gone right for the Jaguars. For starters, the moguls were right that the focus is entirely on football in this northern Florida city. The Jags have the right owner, who hired the right coach, who set up a bright staff of coaches and sought out the right scouts who went about their duties in an ideal way. The whole thing seemed to come together late in April when Jacksonville did just about every-



PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	29	vs. Carolina at Canton, OH
August	4	At Miami (N)
	10	At Detroit (N)
	18	ST. LOUIS (N)
	25	DENVER (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

1994 SCORES

September	3	HOUSTON	—
	10	At Cincinnati	—
	17	At N.Y. Jets	—
	24	GREEN BAY (N)	—
October	1	At Houston	—
	8	PITTSBURGH	—
	15	CHICAGO	—
	22	At Cleveland	—
	29	At Pittsburgh	—
November	5	OPEN DATE	—
	12	SEATTLE	—
	19	At Tampa Bay	—
	26	CINCINNATI	—
December	3	At Denver	—
	10	INDIANAPOLIS	—
	17	At Detroit	—
	24	CLEVELAND	—

JEFF LAGEMAN



thing right on draft day. No one in the NFL would be startled if the Jaguars won five or six games this pioneer season and turned out to have the most successful start of any expansion football team.

Coughlin's previous NFL experience was as an assistant coach, but he's had plenty of time to think about what he would do as a head coach in the pros. The Giants tried to

hire him when he was head coach at Boston College and the Jaguars moved to get him a full year before the team reached the field. He spent the autumn of 1994 operating as if he actually did have a team. He devised game plans during the week, scouted every week, and even coached simulated games.

The keystone of this first team is the offensive line, which will be coached by Mike Maser, one of the highly regarded assistants Coughlin brought with him from B.C. On draft day the Jags selected Southern Cal's Tony Boselli (6-7, 323), the most promising offensive tackle to come into the NFL since the great Anthony Munoz, another USC product. They followed that by picking another huge tackle, Brian DeMarco (6-6, 320), of Michigan State. "Hopefully," said Boselli, "we can be bookends for 10 years." Coughlin and Maser certainly endorsed that idea. At center will be Bronco free agent Dave Widell. Another free agent, Shawn Bouwens of Detroit, will start opposite veteran Eugene Chung or Tom Myslinski. Marcus Price of LSU is not in the Boselli-DeMarco class, but he'll be starting somewhere in the Jaguar line in a year or two. There are lesser lines already in operation in the league.

For an expansion team, the Jags ended up with an embarrassment of riches. Steve Beuerlein, who spent last season with the Arizona Cardinals, was the top pick in the dispersal draft and he may be at the ideal point in his career for this. If he isn't, Jack Trudeau knows how to run a team. Then, just before the draft, Coughlin traded with Green Bay for Mark Brunell, the young lefty. In the draft itself, the Jaguars made a bargain, fourth-round selection of Rob Johnson from Southern Cal. Johnson set a buch of Pac-10 records, including the highest percentage of career passes completed (64.6) and lowest percentage of career passes intercepted (3.05). Against California last fall, he completed 23 passes in a row. Ex-Heisman Trophy winner Andre Ware was virtually forced out before he began.

The Jacksonville offense is more likely to concentrate on the run, at least for the first two thirds of the season. Coughlin maneuvered in the draft to select Tennessee's James Stewart in the first round. Stewart, who ran for 1,028 yards and 11 touchdowns for the Vols in '94, is the sort of strong, durable, and authoritative ball carrier who should function well behind Boselli, DeMarco, and company. He catches the ball, too. Just in case, Coughlin has another former Tennessee star, Reggie Cobb, who may be ready to rekindle his career after gaining 579 yards a year ago for the Packers.

The Jaguars took some risks to stock their receiving corps. The biggest was taking on the contract of another ex-Heisman winner, Desmond Howard of the Redskins. Howard was an enormous disappointment in Washington, but he would be the first feature receiver for the Jags. Likewise tight end Derek Brown broke a lot of hearts with the Giants after a great career at Notre Dame. He'll get his chance in Jacksonville. Cedric Tillman arrived via Denver and Kelvin Martin via Seattle in the dispersal draft. Martin previously played with Beuerlein in Dallas and he also can help as a return man.

Jacksonville can put four experienced defensive linemen on the field: Kelvin Pritchett, who had 5.5 sacks for Detroit; run-stuffer Don Davey from the Packers; Joel Smeenge from New Orleans, and Paul Frase from the Jets. Smeenge is more of a Charles Haley type, without the Cowboys' production. Keith Goganious, the ex-Bill, will be an important linebacker. Bryan Schwartz of Augustana, whom too many scouts knew about to rank as a sleeper, might find immediate work as an inside backer.

A lot of thought was put into the secondary. Three corners—Corey Raymond of the Giants, Mickey Washington of the Bills, and Vinnie Clark of the Saints—were acquired. Rookie safety Chris Hudson of Colorado won the Jim Thorpe Award as the best college defensive back and was the defensive MVP in the Aloha Bowl the year before. He's a producer who might fit in nicely as the free safety.

Look for Coughlin to make use of the last-minute roster cuts by other NFL teams this summer, freeing up wide receivers and linebackers would could plug some nettlesome holes in his current roster.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Tom Coughlin, Head Coach
Joe Baker, Assistant/Special Teams
Pete Carmichael, Wide Receivers
Randy Edsall, Secondary
Kevin Gilbride, Offensive Coordinator
Jerald Ingram, Running Backs
Dick Jauron, Defensive Coordinator
Mike Maser, Offensive Line
Nick Nicolau, Tight Ends
Lucious Selmon, Outside Linebackers
Steve Szabo, Inside Linebackers



JAGUARS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
84	Baker, Shannon	WR	5-9	185	24	Florida State
4	Barker, Bryan	P	6-1	187	32	Santa Clara
7	Beuerlein, Steve	QB	6-2	210	31	Notre Dame
66	Bouwens, Shawn	G	6-4	290	28	NE Wesleyan
52	Boyer, Brant	LB	6-0	233	25	Arizona
21	Boykin, Deral	S	5-11	196	25	Louisville
86	Brown, Derek	TE	6-6	252	26	Notre Dame
36	Brown, Leon	RB	5-10	190	26	E. Kentucky
8	Brunell, Mark	QB	6-1	208	25	Washington
29	Carrington, Darren	S	6-2	200	29	No. Arizona
99	Carthen, Jason	LB	6-3	255	25	Ohio U.
69	Chung, Eugene	G	6-4	295	27	Virginia Tech
53	Clark, Reggie	LB	6-2	226	28	No. Carolina
29	Clark, Vinnie	CB	6-0	194	27	Ohio State
32	Cobb, Reggie	RB	6-0	215	27	Tennessee
92	Collins, Ferric	DT	6-6	295	26	California
21	Colon, Harry	S	6-0	203	27	Missouri
80	Davenport, Charles	WR	6-3	210	27	N. C. State
99	Davey, Don	DE	6-4	270	28	Wisconsin
30	Davis, Mike	CB	6-1	192	24	Cincinnati
84	Duff, John	TE	6-7	260	28	New Mexico
38	Dumas, Mike	S	5-11	181	27	Indiana
81	Etheredge, Carlos	TE	6-5	259	25	Miami
91	Frase, Paul	DT	6-5	270	31	Syracuse
55	Freeman, Reggie	LB	6-1	233	26	Florida State
50	Goganious, Keith	LB	6-2	239	27	Penn State
26	Green, Rogerick	CB	6-0	185	26	Kansas State
88	Griffith, Richard	TE	6-5	256	26	Arizona
22	Grow, Monty	S	6-3	214	24	Florida
86	Harris, Willie	WR	6-1	193	25	Miss. State
20	Henderson, Othello	S	6-0	192	23	UCLA
80	Howard, Desmond	WR	5-9	180	26	Michigan
60	Huntington, Greg	C	6-3	278	25	Penn State
26	Jackson, Al	CB	6-0	182	24	Georgia
83	Jackson, Willie	WR	6-1	205	24	Florida
23	Jordan, Randy	RB	5-10	205	26	No. Carolina
56	Lagema, Jeff	DE	6-5	266	28	Virginia
73	Logan, Ernie	DE	6-3	285	28	East Carolina
84	Martin, Kelvin	WR	5-9	162	31	Boston Col.
47	Maston, Le'Shai	LB	6-1	215	25	Baylor
96	Mayfield, Corey	DE	6-3	280	26	Oklahoma
52	McCoy, Ryan	LB	6-2	237	24	Houston
44	McNabb, Dexter	RB	6-1	245	26	Florida
69	Myslinski, Tom	G	6-2	289	27	Tennessee
67	Novak, Jeff	G	6-5	295	28	SW Texas
94	Pritchett, Kelvin	DE	6-2	281	26	Mississippi
39	Raymond, Corey	S	5-11	180	26	LSU
36	Robinson, Frank	CB	5-11	174	27	Boise State
31	Royster, Mazio	RB	6-1	200	25	USC
68	Shaw, Rickie	T	6-4	295	26	No. Carolina
74	Siever, Paul	T	6-6	294	26	Penn State
22	Simmons, Marcello	CB	6-1	180	24	Smu
9	Sisson, Scott	K	6-0	197	24	Georgia Tech
99	Smeenge, Joel	LB	6-5	250	28	W. Michigan
81	Smith, Jimmy	WR	6-1	205	27	Jackson State
53	Stephens, Santo	LB	6-4	232	27	Temple
96	Sutton, Ricky	DE	6-2	282	25	Auburn
41	Thomas, Dave	CB	6-2	208	27	Tennessee
87	Tillman, Cedric	WR	6-2	204	25	Alcorn State
71	Tucker, Mark	G	6-3	290	28	USC
11	Ware, Andre	QB	6-2	205	27	Houston
25	Washington, Mickey	CB	5-9	191	27	Texas A&M
79	Widell, Dave	G	6-6	292	31	Boston Col.
90	Williams, James	LB	6-0	230	27	Miss. State
51	Williams, Mark	LB	6-3	229	25	Ohio State
29	Wilson, Marcus	RB	6-1	210	28	Virginia

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Boselli, Tony	T	6-7	323	USC
1	Stewart, James	RB	6-1	217	Tennessee
2	DeMarco, Brian	OG	6-6	320	Michigan State
2	Schwartz, Bryan	LB	6-3	248	Augustana
3	Hudson, Chris	S	5-10	195	Colorado
4	Johnson, Rob	QB	6-3	220	USC
4	Thompson, Mike	DT	6-3	276	Wisconsin
5	Christopherson, Ryan	RB	5-11	244	Wyoming
6	Price, Marcus	OT	6-5	302	LSU
7	Marsh, Curtis	WR	6-1	212	Utah



CINCINNATI BENGALS

These days in Cincinnati football, there seem to be more sidebars than there were in the O.J. Simpson court case. If it isn't talk of a possible move of the franchise to Baltimore or somewhere else unless a new football-only stadium is built, there is a squabble about the Bengals' salary cap and their commitment to use all of it. The football often seems incidental.

There was an exodus of some of the franchise's best assistant coaches after last season. They were convinced David

Shula had just the 1995 season to save himself and the front office wasn't going to give him much help. The exodus included Jim McNally, one of the finest offensive line coaches in the league and a man capable of making alot out of very little, which the front office forced him to do.

If the situation is to be saved, and Shula's job along with it, the groundwork was laid on draft day when the Bengals traded up from fifth place in the first round to first, where they selected the man they and many other teams in the NFL thought was the best player on the board: Penn State running back Ki-Jana Carter. How good is Carter? The answer goes beyond the 1,539 yards he gained last year when he was runner-up for the Heisman Trophy. He runs with a low center of gravity, explodes into the hole, patiently awaits as his blockers open the hole, then accelerates. He also sees the cut-back lanes.

Carter could carry the Bengals. He takes over immediately for Derrick Fenner, the Bengals' leading rusher (468 yards),

who ran off and signed with the L.A. Raiders. Cincinnati added free agents Eric Bieniemy from San Diego and James Joseph from Philadelphia, but they combined for just 498 yards in '94.

The fact is Cincinnati could be somewhat of a surprise team. They have been stockpiling big-time talent long enough to make that happen. Consider that Big Daddy Dan Wilkinson, the first pick in the 1994 draft, underestimated the NFL for about four months before finally beginning to take it seriously late last season. Consider also that the Steelers couldn't handle Alfred Williams, the Bengals' quick, pass-rushing lineman, last year. And that the front office fought off free-agent bids and re-signed another of its young stars, linebacker James Francis.

The most important young Bengal to consider, however, is Jeff Blake, the quarterback who took command of the team at midseason after Cincinnati signed him at a New York Jets' garage sale just before opening day. The Bengals became Blake's team against Dallas in the eighth game of the season. He completed 14 of 32 passes for 243 yards and two touchdowns. The Cowboys won, but Cincinnati knew it had something interesting. Blake completed 31 of 43 passes for 377 yards in Seattle as Cincinnati won for the first time. The next week against Houston he was 23-for-33 for 348 yards and the Bengals won again. That was followed by a five-game losing streak in which Blake ran the quarterback gamut from shoddy to near-brilliant. In the final game against Philly he was a little of both, completing 17 of 42 for 233 yards, running for 54 yards, passing for two touchdowns (and also being intercepted three times) as Cincinnati closed with a victory.

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Pelfrey 108 points on 24 extra points and 28 field goals.....	6th
RUSHING—Fenner, 468 yards on 141 carries, 3.3 avg., 1 TD.....	17th
PASSING—Blake, 156 of 306 attempts for 2,154 yards and 14 TDs.....	9th
RECEIVING—Pickens, 71 receptions for 1,127 yards, 15.9 avg., 11 TDs.....	10th
INTERCEPTIONS—Oliver, 3 for 36 yards, 12.0 average.....	116th
PUNTING—Johnson, 79 punts, 43.8 avg., longest 64 yards.....	2nd
PUNT RETURNS—Sawyer, 26 for 307 yards, 11.8 average.....	3rd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Ball, 42 for 915 yards, 21.8 average.....	8th
SACKS—Williams, 9.5 sacks.....	19th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	4	At Indianapolis (N)
	11	TAMPA BAY (N)
	17	At Detroit (N)
	25	N.Y. JETS (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	At Indianapolis.....	13-17
	10	JACKSONVILLE.....	—
	17	At Seattle.....	20-17
	24	HOUSTON.....	34-31
October	1	MIAMI.....	7-23
	8	At Tampa Bay.....	—
	19	At Pittsburgh (N).....	10-14
	29	CLEVELAND.....	20-28
November	5	L.A. RAIDERS.....	—
	12	At Houston.....	13-20
	19	PITTSBURGH.....	15-38
	26	At Jacksonville.....	—
December	3	At Green Bay.....	—
	10	CHICAGO.....	—
	17	At Cleveland.....	13-37
	24	MINNESOTA.....	—
	15	MINNESOTA.....	23-17

Comparing the portion of the season when Blake took over as the starter to that portion of the 1993 season, the Bengals' scoring went from 11.7 points to 19.4, the yardage from 253 to 331, and the NFL ranking from 27th to 7th. Blake completed eight passes of 50 yards or more, the most in the NFL. He may be a wild mustang, but Blake is the horse Shula is going to have to ride in this crucial season. With Carter to run the ball, the coaches at least have a chance to harness the mustang. "He brought a lot of excitement to our games," admitted Shula. David Klingler, another former No. 1 pick by the club, hasn't come close to getting it done, so the Bengals added John Walsh in the seventh round. The latest in a long line of talented quarterbacks from Brigham Young, Walsh could prove to be one of the steals of the draft.

As Blake flourished, so did wide receiver Carl Pickens, who caught 11 passes for 188

yards, an average of more than 17 yards, against Houston. He had a 103-yard day against Indianapolis, 132 yards against Denver, 105 against Pittsburgh, and 135 against Philadelphia. He finished with 1,127 yards and 11 touchdowns. After the season, Cincinnati matched the offer sheet San Francisco had signed with Pickens. Darnay Scott had 46 catches for 866 yards (AFC-high 18.8-yard average), including a 76-yard pass from Blake. Tight end Tony McGee had a sound year, with 40 catches and a 12.3-yard average.

Carter will not run behind an all-star offensive line in his rookie season. Kevin Sargent and Bruce Kozerski are experienced tackles, with Ken Moyer at right guard, ex-Jet Dave Cadigan at left guard, and former Seahawk Darrick Briz at center. The highest drafted offensive lineman was tackle Melvin Tuten of Syracuse in the third round. The sixth round brought another tackle, Ryan Grigson of Purdue.

Defensively, the Bengals could make a few things happen. Cortez Kennedy became king of the hill with the Seattle Seahawks in his second season, and the same thing could happen to Wilkinson, assuming he stays serious. Williams had 9.5 sacks coming from the right side. Huge Keith Rucker plays between him and Wilkinson. John Copeland is the left end. Francis should be about to make his move up the

status ladder as an outside linebacker. Steve Tovar makes a lot of contact inside. Ricardo McDonald has been around. Mike Brim and Rod Jones are the starting corners, but Corey Sawyer should challenge someone in the secondary. Free safety Darryl Williams is the best defensive back. Fernandus Vinson is the strong safety.

Doug Pelfrey was an exemplary kicker, nailing 28 of 33 field goals. Lee Johnson averaged 43.8 yards per punt. Sawyer was one of the better punt returners in the league.

BENGALS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
15	Ballard, Jim	QB	6-3	223	24	Mount Union
32	Bieniemy, Eric	RB	5-7	198	26	Colorado
8	Blake, Jeff	QB	6-0	202	25	East Carolina
74	Braham, Rich	G	6-4	290	25	West Virginia
58	Braxton, David	LB	6-2	240	31	Wake Forest
65	Briz, Darrick	G	6-3	287	32	Oregon State
43	Brim, Mike	CB	6-0	192	30	Virginia Union
72	Brumfield, Scott	T	6-8	320	25	Brigham Yng
68	Cadigan, Dave	G	6-4	285	31	USC
92	Copeland, John	DE	6-3	286	25	Alabama
46	Cothran, Jeff	RB	6-2	231	25	Ohio State
83	Frisch, David	TE	6-7	260	26	Colorado St.
28	Green, Harold	RB	6-2	222	28	S. Carolina
45	Hardy, Adrian	CB	5-11	194	25	NW Louisiana
19	Hill, Jeff	WR	5-11	178	23	Purdue
55	Hollinquest, Lamont	LB	6-3	245	25	USC
57	Jefferson, Kevin	LB	6-2	232	22	Lehigh
11	Johnson, Lee	P	6-2	200	34	Brigham Yng
66	Jones, Dan	T	6-7	294	25	Maine
25	Jones, Rod	CB	6-0	185	32	SMU
24	Jones, Roger	CB	5-9	175	27	Tennessee St
32	Joseph, James	RB	6-2	222	28	Auburn
7	Klingler, David	QB	6-2	205	27	Houston
64	Kozerski, Bruce	G	6-4	287	34	Holy Cross
56	McDonald, Ricardo	LB	6-2	235	26	Pittsburgh
85	McGee, Tim	WR	5-10	183	31	Tennessee
82	McGee, Tony	TE	6-3	246	25	Michigan
60	Moore, Eric	G	6-5	290	31	Indiana
73	Moyer, Ken	G	6-7	297	29	Toledo
93	Parten, Ty	DT	6-4	272	26	Arizona
9	Pelfrey, Doug	K	5-11	185	25	Kentucky
80	Pickens, Carl	WR	6-2	206	26	Tennessee
76	Pollard, Trent	T	6-4	325	23	E. Washington
89	Query, Jeff	WR	6-0	165	29	Millikin
95	Rucker, Keith	DT	6-4	360	27	OH Wesleyan
87	Sadowski, Troy	TE	6-5	250	30	Georgia
77	Sargent, Kevin	T	6-6	284	27	E. Washington
23	Sawyer, Corey	CB	5-11	171	24	Florida State
86	Scott, Darnay	WR	6-1	185	23	San Diego St.
52	Shine, Steve	LB	6-4	232	25	Northwestern
70	Smith, Artie	DE	6-4	303	26	La Tech
79	Stallings, Ramondo	DE	6-7	285	24	San Diego St.
51	Tovar, Steve	LB	6-3	244	26	Ohio State
59	Truitt, Gregg	LB	6-0	235	30	Penn State
34	Vinson, Fernandus	S	5-10	197	27	N. C. State
67	Von Oelhoffen, Kimo	DT	6-4	300	25	Boise State
87	Waddle, Tom	WR	6-0	190	29	Boston Coll
27	Walker, Bracey	S	5-10	200	25	N Carolina
91	Wallerstedt, Brett	LB	6-1	240	25	Arizona State
63	Walter, Joe	T	6-7	292	33	Texas Tech
88	Ware, Derek	TE	6-2	250	28	Cent. Okla.
37	Wheeler, Leonard	CB	5-11	189	27	Troy State
4	Wilhelm, Erik	QB	6-3	217	30	Oregon State
99	Wilkinson, Dan	DT	6-5	300	23	Ohio State
94	Williams, Alfred	LB	6-6	240	27	Colorado
31	Williams, Darryl	S	6-0	191	26	Miami

DRAFTES

rd	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Carter, Ki-Jana	RB	5-10	223	Penn State
3	Tuten, Melvin	OT	6-6	302	Syracuse
4	Shade, Sam	S	6-0	194	Alabama
5	Dunn, David	WR	6-2	210	Fresno State
6	Grigson, Ryan	OT	6-6	296	Purdue
7	Walsh, John	QB	6-3	214	Brigham Young



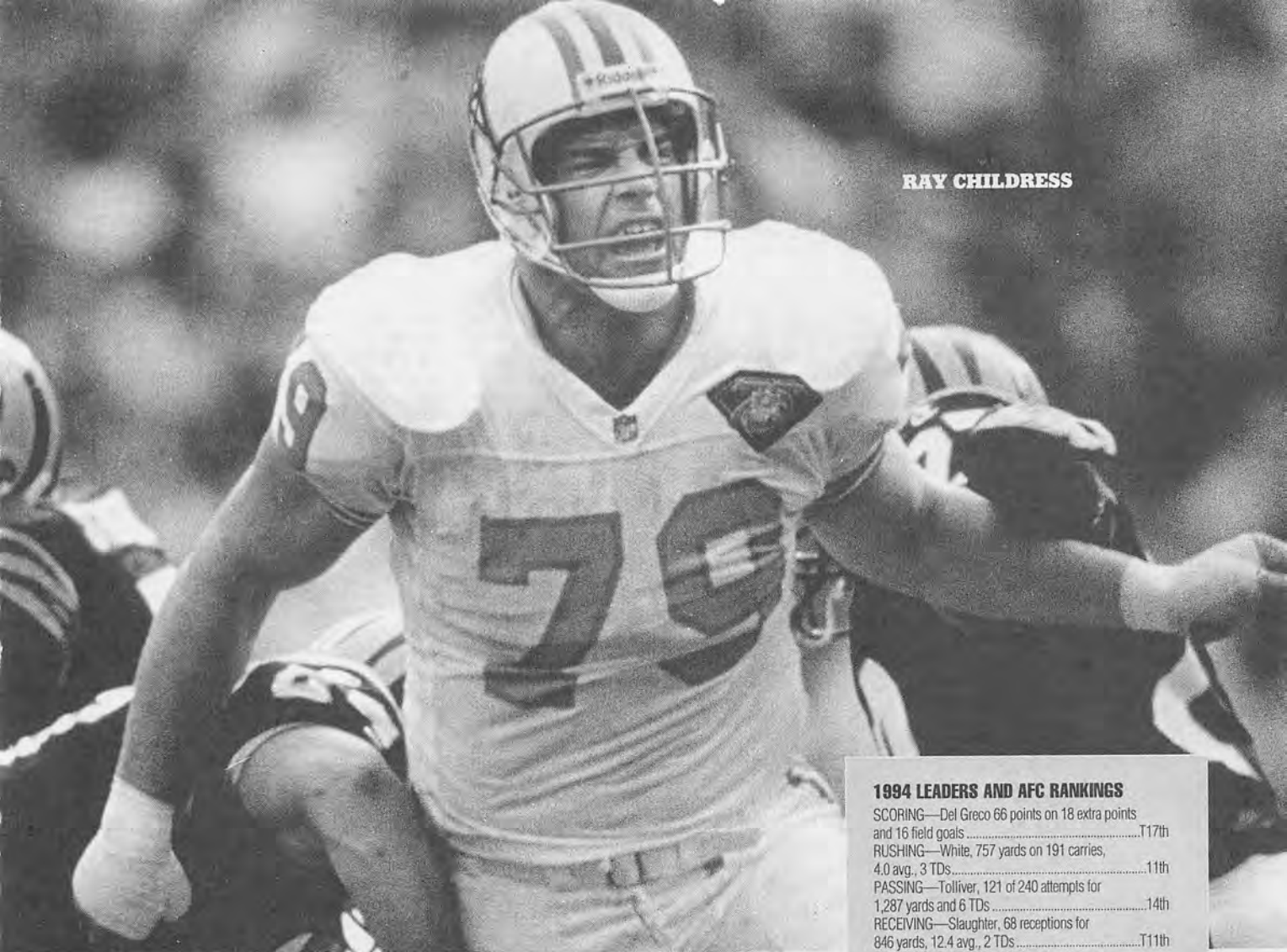
**DARNAY
SCOTT**



KEVIN SARGENT



**DAVID
KLINGER**



RAY CHILDRESS

HOUSTON OILERS

There is no earthly reason why the Steve McNair era shouldn't start in Houston immediately. The Oilers were torn apart by owner Bud Adams a year ago and now the rebuilding process begins. The offense scored 98 fewer points than any team in the NFL. The Oilers were last in the league in scoring, 26th in total offense, 25th in passing offense, and 28th in rushing defense, so their 2-14 record was a matter of merit. It's McNair time.



The arguments in favor of McNair's trial by fire are that he has the ability to make something out of nothing, that his pocket presence already is the equal of many other more experienced NFL quarterbacks, that his escapability could get him out of the Temple of Doom, and that his formidable arm has made him Mr. Third-and-Long. McNair, who can run, threw for almost 15,000 yards and 119 touchdowns in his four years at Alcorn State. What he will need is polishing and patience from his coaches and an inordinate amount of patience from his teammates and the Oiler fans. Jerry Rhome, one of the top quarterback tutors in the NFL, will be in charge of McNair's development, which is good news. The fans were ultra-patient with Bucky Richardson, a far less talented quar-

terback a year ago. Of course, Richardson is a Texas Aggie, which puts a different look upon it, but McNair is capable of pulling so many rabbits out of a helmet that he could rally the public to his side. If Richardson could excite them, McNair could send them into hysterics.

The Oilers have two veteran quarterbacks: the often-injured Cody Carlson and the newly acquired (from the Rams) Chris Chandler. By playing either of them, the Oilers would be retarding their own progress. All they have to do is look north for the perfect example. The Dallas Cowboys played Troy Aikman as a rookie starter and won a single game, yet things got a whole lot better in a hurry. In fact, the entire Houston offense has to be refashioned. The running game has bounced from Lorenzo White to Gary Brown to no one in particular. White rushed for 757 yards to lead the team, but 20 other runners in the NFL had more a year ago. Brown, with 648 yards, was one of the league's ranking underachievers, so rookie Rodney Thomas of Texas A&M could receive a quick chance for a lot of work. He is a strong and speedy runner, if not particularly elusive. If Brown wants to pay the price again, he could be one of McNair's major weapons because of his soft hands.

Speaking of hands, the Oilers must improve their concentration, since they

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Del Greco 66 points on 18 extra points and 16 field goals	17th
RUSHING—White, 757 yards on 191 carries, 4.0 avg., 3 TDs	11th
PASSING—Tolliver, 121 of 240 attempts for 1,287 yards and 6 TDs	14th
RECEIVING—Slaughter, 68 receptions for 846 yards, 12.4 avg., 2 TDs	11th
Jetties, 68 receptions for 783 yards, 11.5 avg., 6 TDs	11th
INTERCEPTIONS—Lewis, 5 for 57 yards, 11.4 average	16th
PUNTING—Camarillo, 96 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 58 yards	5th
PUNT RETURNS—Givins, 37 for 210 yards, 5.7 average	14th
KICKOFF RETURNS—McNair, 23 for 481 yards, 20.9 average	13th
SACKS—Lathon, 8.5 sacks	14th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	ARIZONA (N)
	12	vs. Washington at Knoxville (N)
	19	SAN DIEGO (N)
	26	vs. Dallas at San Antonio (N)

1995 SCHEDULE 1994 SCORES

September	3	At Jacksonville	-
	10	PITTSBURGH	9-12
	17	CLEVELAND	8-11
	24	At Cincinnati	31-34
October	1	JACKSONVILLE	-
	8	At Minnesota	-
	15	OPEN DATE	-
	22	At Chicago	-
	29	TAMPA BAY	-
November	5	At Cleveland	10-34
	12	CINCINNATI	20-13
	19	At Kansas City (N)	9-31
	26	DENVER	-
December	3	At Pittsburgh	14-30
	10	DETROIT	-
	17	N.Y. JETS	24-10
	24	At Buffalo	7-15

led the NFL in turnovers and their 42 fumbles were 10 more than the league's next-worst team. For that matter, the 65 sacks they allowed were 32 above the league average. That is one reason Houston made center Mark Stepnoski of Dallas its No. 1 free-agent priority. Stepnoski not only gives street-fighter tenacity to the middle of the passing protection, but his presence also frees up Bruce Matthews to play either guard or tackle. Matthews may end up on the right side of the line, since tackle Brad Hopkins and guard John Flannery should stabilize the left side. Kevin Donnalley and David Williams are the incumbent starters on the right side.

The Oilers are still attempting to come to grips with a passing game that emerged from the run-and-shoot days of Warren Moon. They managed just 25 touchdowns, including 13 via the pass, both AFC lows, and got close enough only for 20 field goal attempts by Al Del Greco, who converted 16 of them. At the end of last season under Jeff Fisher, the Oilers used both a tight end, Pat Carter and sometimes Roderick Lewis, with John Henry Mills at H-back. Between

now and opening day, Rhome will have to decide what best suits McNair without getting him sacked 65 times. McNair will have veteran Webster Slaughter (68 receptions) to throw to. But swift rookie Chris Sanders of Ohio State, taken in the third round of the '95 draft, and second-year man Malcolm Seabron could bond quickly with the new franchise quarterback.

McNair's new best friends might be the Oiler defenders. They finished ninth in the league in overall defense, second against the pass. Of course, they were a piece of cake for tough running games. The defensive line lost its best pass rusher, Lamar Lathon (8.5 sacks), to Carolina and tough run plugger Tim Roberts to New England. What is needed now is a return to his Pro Bowl days by tackle Ray Childress, who, by his personal standards, was ordinary. Still, Houston could line up with end Kenny Davidson and Childress on the left side, where each recorded six sacks. Anthony Cook, the second-round draft choice who played on the outside at South Carolina State, has to compete at right end for Lathon's old job or with Glenn Montgomery for an interior position.

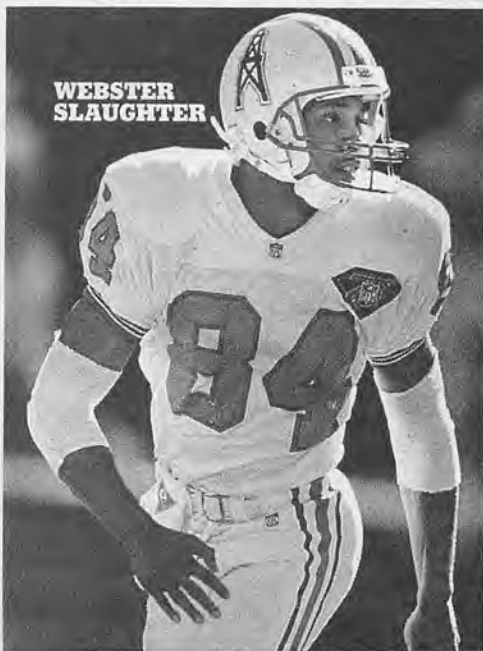
Middle linebacker Al Smith recorded 142 tackles, 97 of them solo, to lead the team. The Oilers need larger contributions from outside backers Eddie Robinson and Michael Barrow. Once strong safety Blaine Bishop forced his way into the lineup, he made 112 tackles, including 75 solo stops. The only other 100-plus tackler was another safety, Marcus Robertson, who had 111 (80 solo). Better that the enemy be confronted

closer to the line of scrimmage. Cornerback Darryl Lewis was the top interceptor, with five, while his partner on the other side, Cris Dishman, had four.

Houston hasn't had a player who averaged more than 10 yards per punt return since 1977, when White Shoes Johnson was on the roster. So the Oilers went out and signed the best: free agent Mel Gray of Detroit. "Getting a top return man was critical, and we got the best there is," explained general manager Floyd Reese. Gray averaged 11.1 yards per punt return and led the NFL with a 28.4-yard kickoff-return average.



MICHAEL BARROW



WEBSTER SLAUGHTER

HOUSTON OILERS

Jeff Fisher, Head Coach
Larry Beightol, Offensive Line
Dick Coury, Offensive Assistant
Rex Norris, Defensive Line
Rod Perry, Defensive Backs
Russ Purnell, Special Teams
Jerry Rhome, Offensive Coordinator
Steve Sidwell, Defensive Coordinator
Sherman Smith, Running Backs
Les Steckel, Wide Receivers/Tight Ends
Steve Waterston, Strength/Rehabilitation
Greg Williams, Linebackers

KENNY DAVIDSON



OILERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
22	Barnes, Tomur	CB	5-10	188	25	North Texas
56	Barrow, Micheal	LB	6-1	236	26	Miami
23	Bishop, Blaine	CB	5-9	197	25	Ball State
59	Bowden, Joe	LB	5-11	230	26	Oklahoma
33	Brown, Gary	RB	5-11	233	27	Penn State
89	Brown, Reggie	WR	6-1	195	26	Alabama State
16	Camarrillo, Rich	P	5-11	200	36	Washington
14	Carlson, Cody	QB	6-3	202	32	Baylor
85	Carter, Pat	TE	6-4	258	29	Florida State
17	Chandler, Chris	QB	6-4	220	30	Washington
79	Childress, Ray	DT	6-6	272	33	Texas A&M
87	Coleman, Pat	WR	5-7	173	29	Mississippi
90	Davidson, Kenny	DE	6-5	277	28	LSU
3	Del Greco, Al	K	5-10	202	34	Auburn
28	Dishman, Cris	CB	6-0	188	30	Purdue
77	Donnalley, Kevin	G	6-5	305	28	No. Carolina
53	Faryniarz, Brett	LB	6-3	230	30	San Diego St.
55	Flannery, John	G	6-3	304	27	Syracuse
92	Ford, Henry	DE	6-3	284	24	Arkansas
81	Givins, Ernest	WR	5-9	178	31	Louisville
23	Gray, Mel	WR	5-9	171	35	Purdue
51	Hall, Lemanski	LB	6-0	229	25	Alabama
82	Hannah, Travis	WR	5-7	162	26	USC
72	Hopkins, Brad	T	6-3	306	25	Illinois
41	Jackson, Sean	RB	6-1	222	25	Florida State
24	Jackson, Steve	CB	5-8	182	27	Purdue
29	Lewis, Darryl	CB	5-9	183	27	Arizona
49	Lewis, Roderick	WR	6-5	254	25	Arizona
74	Matthews, Bruce	C	6-5	298	34	USC
25	McDowell, Bubba	S	6-1	198	29	Miami
37	McNair, Todd	RB	6-1	202	30	Temple
48	Mills, John Henry	TE	6-0	222	26	Wake Forest
94	Montgomery, Glenn	DT	6-0	282	29	Houston
64	Norgard, Erik	G	6-1	282	30	Colorado
93	Nunley, Jeremy	DE	6-5	278	24	Alabama
67	Reid, Jim	T	6-5	300	25	Virginia
7	Richardson, Bucky	QB	6-1	226	27	Texas A&M
31	Robertson, Marcus	S	5-11	197	26	Iowa State
50	Robinson, Eddie	LB	6-1	245	26	Alabama State
83	Seabron, Malcolm	WR	6-0	194	23	Fresno State
84	Slaughter, Webster	WR	6-1	175	31	San Diego St.
54	Smith, Al	LB	6-1	244	31	Utah State
53	Stepnoski, Mark	C	6-2	264	29	Pittsburgh
70	Thomas, Stan	T	6-5	295	27	Texas
32	Tillman, Spencer	RB	5-11	206	32	Oklahoma
11	Tolliver, Billy Joe	QB	6-1	218	30	Texas Tech
88	Wellman, Gary	WR	5-9	173	28	USC
73	Williams, David	T	6-5	292	30	Florida
10	Williamson, Lee	QB	6-4	206	27	Presbyterian
52	Wortham, Barron	LB	5-11	244	26	UTEP

DRAFTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	McNair, Steve	QB	6-2	224	Alcorn State
2	Cook, Anthony	DT	6-3	288	S. C. State
3	Sanders, Chris	WR	6-0	180	Ohio State
3	Thomas, Rodney	RB	5-10	214	Texas A&M
3	Hunter, Torey	CB	5-8	175	Washington State
4	Roan, Michael	TE	6-3	258	Wisconsin
5	Walker, Gary	DE	6-2	286	Auburn
6	El-Mashtoub, Hicham	C	6-2	298	Arizona
7	Richardson, C.J.	S	5-10	209	Miami

AFC west

JEFF HOSTETLER

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Why would Al Davis promote an aging, largely forgotten assistant coach, Mike White, to supervise the football fortunes of a team that should be a serious contender in a wide-open division? For the same

season the Toronto Blue Jays installed a veteran, avuncular hitting coach named Cito Gaston in their manager's office and then went on to win the World Series. What Davis may have done with his coaching

shakeup is remove the confrontation and tension which handicapped a team that should have gone further than it did in the last several years. Not only did quarterback Jeff Hostetler have a highly visible (and publicly televised), acrimonious debate with then-coach Art Shell right on the sidelines, but Hoss also duelled with offensive coordinator Tom Walsh over the play-calling.

White, a former head coach at California and Illinois and an ex-aide to Davis and Bill Walsh, understands how to survive when there is a clash of creative personalities. Davis has assembled the ingredients for a

vertical passing game again, and while it may be out of sync with what's being done by the better NFL teams, White will work within that framework. In fact, White will use the no-huddle offense, particularly after the Raiders hold their opponents to a three-plays-and-out situation and their defenders haven't had time to catch their breaths before returning to the field. Davis never has forgotten how his 1990 Raiders were blown away, 42-3, by Buffalo at half-time of the AFC championship that year.

White imported Jim Fassel to be his offensive coordinator. Fassel was Hostetler's quarterback coach in his last seasons with the New York Giants. The changes should give Hoss a sense of renewal. He threw 20 touchdown passes and gained 3,334 yards a year ago. Under the new regime, he should be able to improve upon those numbers while the Raiders try to upgrade their No. 19 ranking in total offense.

It's hard to see how the Raiders could get more out of Tim Brown: 89 catches for an AFC-leading 1,309 yards and nine touchdowns with a 14.7-yard per-catch average. Now the polishing must be turned to Rocket Ismail, who gave just a hint of what a weapon he might become with his 15.1-yard

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

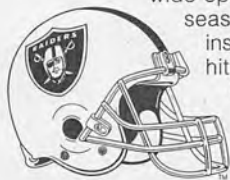
SCORING—Jaeger 97 points on 31 extra points and 22 field goals	10th
RUSHING—Williams, 983 yards on 282 carries, 3.5 avg., 4 TDs	5th
PASSING—Hostetler, 263 of 455 attempts for 3,334 yards and 20 TDs	6th
RECEIVING—Brown, 89 receptions for 1,309 yards, 14.7 avg., 9 TDs	3rd
INTERCEPTIONS—McDaniel, 7 for 103 yards, 14.7 average, 2 TDs	T3rd
PUNTING—Gossett, 77 punts, 43.9 avg., longest 65 yards	1st
PUNT RETURNS—Brown, 40 for 487 yards, 12.2 average	2nd
KICKOFF RETURNS—Ismail, 43 for 923 yards, 21.5 average	10th
SACKS—McGlockton, 9.5 sacks	T9th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	At Dallas (N)
	12	ST. LOUIS
	18	At Minnesota (N)
	25	NEW ENGLAND (N)

1995 SCHEDULE

		1994 SCORES
September	3	SAN DIEGO.....24-25
	10	At Washington.....
	17	At Kansas City.....3-13
	24	PHILADELPHIA.....
October	1	At N.Y. Jets (N).....
	8	SEATTLE.....9-38
	16	At Denver (N).....48-16
	22	INDIANAPOLIS.....
	29	OPEN DATE.....
November	5	At Cincinnati.....
	12	At N.Y. Giants.....
	19	DALLAS.....
	27	At San Diego (N).....24-17
December	3	KANSAS CITY.....9-19
	10	PITTSBURGH.....3-21
	17	At Seattle (N).....17-16
	24	DENVER.....23-13



average on 34 catches and five touchdowns. The Raiders have to use the Rocket to frighten people. And what about the mercurial James Jett? His 15 catches averaged 16.9 yards, but he didn't get into end zone. White and his deep thinkers must conjure up something with Jett to distract opposing defensive coordinators from the other stars. Tight end Kerry Cash, who had 16 receptions for 190 yards last season with Indianapolis, signed as a free agent.

The Raiders' running game was 21st in the league, something that could inflate, particularly since Davis made Napoleon Kaufman his top draft choice. It's probably true that the 5-8, 185-pound Kaufman couldn't handle constant battering, but the Raiders earlier signed Harvey Williams, who rushed for 983 yards and caught 47 passes for 391 yards and three touchdowns, for another season. Williams will get a lot of work again, but it may be in concert with Kaufman, a highly competitive and versatile back with the sort of speed that excites Davis. Davis also signed Cincinnati free agent Derrick Fenner, a big back who knows his way to the goal line in heavy traffic. The draft brought fullback Joe Aska from Central State (OK), who has intriguing speed (4.42) for his size (5-10, 230).

The offensive line is solid but lacks depth. Steve Wisniewski remains a Pro Bowl guard. Don Mosebar is at center, Kevin

to work out in the middle. What White and Davis need are more players like him. The pass rush would benefit if James Folston blossoms in his second pro season.

Terry McDaniel remains one of the top cornerbacks in football. He had seven

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Mike White, Head Coach
Joe Bugel, Assistant Head Coach
Fred Biletnikoff, Quality Control
Jim Fassel, Quarterbacks
John Fox, Defensive Coordinator
Garrett Glemont, Strength & Conditioning
John Guy, Defensive Assistant
Bishop Harris, Running Backs
Bill Meyers, Administrative Asst. Tight Ends
Floyd Peters, Defensive Line
Steve Shafer, Defensive Backfield
Kevin Spencer, Special Teams
Fred Whittingham, Linebackers



NAPOLÉON KAUFMAN



RAGHIB ISMAIL

interceptions last fall, including three in one game in October against New England, and returned two for touchdowns. Lionel Washington returned one of his three interceptions all the way, but he jumped to Denver as a free agent. Former Chief Albert Lewis demonstrated that his skills hadn't diminished.

Jeff Jaeger and punter Jeff Gossett give the Raiders a topnotch kicking game, but the Raiders don't terrorize teams with their return game as they should with Ismail and Brown available. Maybe Kevin Spencer, the former special-teams' coach for the Cleveland Browns, will come up with something.

RAIDERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
33	Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	210	32	Fort Valley St.
93	Ball, Jerry	NT	6-1	300	31	Smu
24	Bates, Patrick	S	6-3	220	25	Texas A&M
49	Bender, Wes	RB	5-10	235	25	USC
54	Biekert, Greg	LB	6-2	235	27	Colorado
81	Brown, Tim	WR	6-0	195	29	Notre Dame
56	Bruce, Aundray	DE	6-5	260	30	Auburn
88	Cash, Kerry	TE	6-4	252	26	Texas
70	Davis, Scott	DE	6-7	275	30	Illinois
11	Evans, Vince	QB	6-2	210	41	USC
	Fenner, Derrick	RB	6-3	228	29	No. Carolina
55	Folston, James	DE	6-3	240	23	NE Louisiana
53	Fredrickson, Rob	LB	6-4	235	25	Michigan St.
87	Glover, Andrew	TE	6-6	245	28	Grambling
66	Gogan, Kevin	G	6-7	325	31	Washington
7	Gossett, Jeff	P	6-2	195	39	E. Illinois
74	Harrison, Nolan	DT	6-5	285	27	Indiana
80	Hobbs, Daryl	WR	6-2	180	28	Pacific
12	Hobert, Billy Joe	QB	6-3	230	25	Washington
57	Holmberg, Rob	LB	6-3	225	25	Penn State
20	Hoskins, Derrick	S	6-2	205	25	S. Mississippi
15	Hostetler, Jeff	QB	6-3	220	35	West Virginia
86	Ismail, Raghib	WR	5-10	180	26	Notre Dame
18	Jaeger, Jeff	K	5-11	190	31	Washington
64	Jenkins, Robert	T	6-5	285	32	UCLA
82	Jett, James	WR	5-10	165	25	West Virginia
27	Jones, Calvin	RB	5-11	212	25	Nebraska
52	Jones, Mike	LB	6-1	230	27	Missouri
25	Land, Dan	CB	6-0	195	30	Albany State
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	195	35	Grambling
41	McCallum, Napoleon	RB	6-2	225	32	Navy
36	McDaniel, Terry	CB	5-10	180	31	Tennessee
91	McGlockton, Chester	DT	6-4	315	26	Clemson
21	Montgomery, Tyrone	RB	6-0	190	25	Mississippi
72	Mosebar, Don	C	6-6	300	34	USC
48	Mustafaa, Najee	CB	6-1	190	32	Georgia Tech
71	Perry, Gerald	T	6-6	300	31	Southern
39	Pickens, Bruce	CB	5-11	190	28	Nebraska
44	Rathman, Tom	RB	6-1	232	33	Nebraska
95	Robbins, Austin	DT	6-6	295	25	No. Carolina
28	Robinson, Greg	RB	5-10	200	26	NE Louisiana
78	Skrepenak, Greg	G	6-6	305	26	Michigan
94	Smith, Anthony	DE	6-3	260	29	Arizona
77	Stephens, Rich	G	6-7	310	31	Tulsa
37	Trapp, James	CB	6-0	180	26	Clemson
67	Turk, Dan	C	6-4	300	34	Wisconsin
51	Wallace, Aaron	LB	6-3	240	29	Texas A&M
96	White, Alberto	DE	6-3	245	25	Texas So.
68	Wilkerson, Bruce	T	6-5	295	31	Tennessee
22	Williams, Harvey	RB	6-2	225	29	LSU
88	Williams, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	36	Nebraska
76	Wisniewski, Steve	G	6-4	285	29	Penn State

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Kaufman, Napoleon	RB	5-8	185	Washington
2	Robbins, Barret	C	6-3	301	Texas Christian
3	Aska, Joe	RB	5-10	230	Central St. (Ok)
4	Morton, Mike	LB	6-4	230	North Carolina
5	Dyson, Matt	LB	6-3	250	Michigan
5	Kysar, Jeff	OT	6-6	320	Arizona State
6	Herring, Eli	OT	6-6	343	Brigham Young



TIM BROWN

Gogan at the other guard, and Gerald Perry and Greg Skrepenak at tackle. The Raiders added Barret Robbins of Texas Christian in the second round. He should stick around a long time at center and guard.

Chester McGlockton terrorizes people from the middle of the defensive line. Jerry Ball occasionally reaches back into his Detroit prime for a big game. The pass rush from ends Anthony Smith and Nolan Harrison wasn't consistent enough and Scott Davis's comeback was a disappointment. Outside linebacker Rob Fredrickson could be the next great Raider defensive star. Greg Biekert is the latest young linebacker

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

The Chargers were a most unremarkable team, even before they got chewed up by San Francisco in the Super Bowl. The three things they do best are rush the passer, stop the run, and score when they get close to the goal line. It was enough in 1994,

but who knows about this season. What may take the Chargers from the level of a sound playoff team to a unit that could challenge for the AFC title again is their chipmunk-cheeked quarterback, Stan Humphries.

"Stan's presence and his confidence carries over to other people," said coach Bobby Ross. "We play with more confidence with him in there. His leadership comes through during the game in the confidence he exhibits and by making the plays."

Bobby Beathard, the Chargers' general manager, is the man who made the trade for Humphries, a quarterback Beathard had drafted for his old team, the Washington Redskins. "You can look at players, quarterbacks especially, and find guys with great stats," said Beathard, "but one of the things you have to ask is, 'Can the guy get the team into the end zone?' The good ones can. Other guys go up and down the field but don't get them into the end zone. Stan has

NATRONE MEANS

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Carney 135 points on 33 extra points and 34 field goals.....	1st
RUSHING—Means, 1,350 yards on 343 carries, 3.9 avg., 12 TDs.....	2nd
PASSING—Humphries, 264 of 453 attempts for 3,209 yards and 17 TDs.....	5th
RECEIVING—Seay, 58 receptions for 645 yards, 11.1 avg., 6 TDs.....	T17th
Harmon, 58 receptions for 615 yards, 10.6 avg., 1 TD.....	T17th
INTERCEPTIONS—Richard, 4 for 224 yards, 56.0 average, 2 TDs.....	T10th
Gordon, 4 for 32 yards, 8.0 average.....	T10th
PUNTING—Wagner, 65 punts, 41.6 avg., longest 59 yards.....	10th
PUNT RETURNS—Gordon, 36 for 475 yards, 13.2 average.....	1st
KICKOFF RETURNS—Coleman, 49 for 1,293 yards, 26.4 average, 2 TDs.....	2nd
SACKS—O'Neal, 12.5 sacks.....	2nd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	7	MINNESOTA
	13	SAN FRANCISCO
	19	At Houston (N)
	25	ST. LOUIS (N)

1995 SCHEDULE 1994 SCORES

September	3	At L.A. Raiders.....	26-24
	10	SEATTLE.....	35-15
	17	At Philadelphia.....	—
	24	DENVER.....	15-20
October	1	At Pittsburgh.....	37-34
	9	At Kansas City (N).....	14-13
	15	DALLAS.....	—
	22	At Seattle.....	24-10
	29	OPEN DATE.....	—
November	5	MIAMI (N).....	—
	12	KANSAS CITY.....	20-6
	19	At Denver.....	37-34
	27	L.A. RAIDERS (N).....	17-24
December	3	CLEVELAND.....	—
	9	ARIZONA.....	—
	17	At Indianapolis.....	—



the qualities the good quarterbacks have. They are not robots. They have minds of their own. They take chances, but they also have something you can't coach. They have to be competitive."

This is Humphries' assessment of himself: "I'm the guy who's there on Sunday, ready to play. I'm the guy who'll take some licks, get back up, and do it again."

Last year, Humphries passed for 3,209 yards, 17 touchdowns, and a reasonable dozen interceptions despite the loss of some of his most familiar receivers. But passing stats are not what the Chargers are about. Basically they are a running offense, seventh-ranked in the NFL. The mechanics of their running game are primitively simple: Give the ball to Natrone Means. In his sec-

ond pro season, the round power back from North Carolina ripped apart opposing defenses for 1,350 yards. He gets the ball three times as much as the other Charger running backs combined, which figures. The man seems tireless. His 12 touchdowns were the most by a Charger since Chuck Muncie reached that figure in 1983. No San Diego runner ever accumulated as much yardage in a season. When the Chargers came back from a 21-6 half-time deficit to defeat Miami in the playoffs, it was Means's tackle-breaking, 24-yard touchdown run which put them back into contention. The statistic of the game was ball control. The Chargers, with Means pounding away, held possession exactly twice as long as Miami. Beathard traded his No. 1

pick next spring to Detroit for its second-rounder this year and grabbed running back Terrell Fletcher of Wisconsin, who led the Big Ten in all-purpose yardage (164.8 per game) in '94.

The backfield should benefit from the relative youth of the Chargers' offensive line. Courtney Hall is among the NFL's top centers. Isaac Davis should inject himself into the fight for a starting guard spot in his second season. Joe Cocozzo and Joe Milinichik are the incumbents. Harry Swayne is the dependable left tackle and Vaughn Parker

could push at right tackle. It would be gravy if Eric Moten could return after a year's recovery from injury.

San Diego's corps of inexperienced receivers did all right for themselves. Tony Martin, the ex-Dolphin, averaged 17 yards on his 50 catches and scored seven touchdowns, including a 99-yarder. Mark Seay

led the team with 58 catches and Shawn Jefferson added 43. The tight ends—Alfred Pupunu, Duane Young, and Shannon Mitchell—are used mostly for heavy work, but they still caught 49 passes among them, critical for an offense that prefers to control the ball. The draft brought sprinter Jimmy Oliver from Texas Christian in the second round.

The thrust of the defense is the pass rush. Veteran right end Leslie O'Neal had 12.5 sacks and the young left end, Chris Mims, coming at an even faster rate, added 11. Left tackle Shawn Lee contributed 6.5. Reuben Davis was a huge free-agent pick-up, literally and figuratively. The 340-pound ex-Cardinal did what few defensive linemen do, dominate Pittsburgh center Dermontti Dawson, in the Chargers' AFC championship victory.

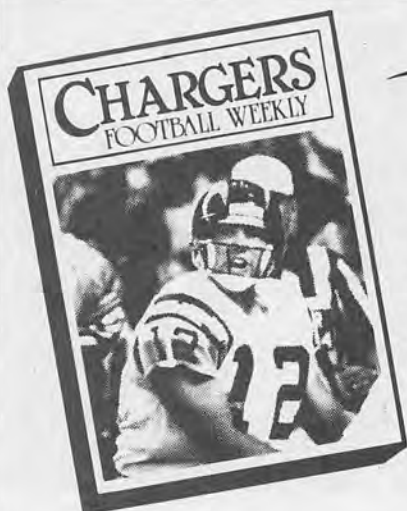
When Davis joined the Chargers and played with middle linebacker Junior Seau for the first time, he said, "I guess it's how those basketball guys felt when they stepped on the court with Michael Jordan. You can't go any further than that." Seau played all season with a pinched nerve in his neck and shoulder area and still made it to his fourth Pro Bowl. He led the team with 155 tackles and contributed 5.5 sacks. The other starting linebackers are David Griggs and Dennis Gibson. The hunt is on now to replace both starting safeties. Strong safety Darren Carrington left in the expansion draft and Stanley Richard, the free safety, signed as a free



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agent with Washington. Ex-Bear Shaun Gale will fill one role. The corners, Darrien Gordon and Dwayne Harper, are solid. Beathard did a lot of maneuvering on draft day and chose Stephen F. Austin cornerback Terrance Shaw in the second round.

Gordon and Andre Coleman give San Diego two of the most dangerous return men in the NFL. Gordon averaged 31.2 yards and ran back two punts for touchdowns in leading the AFC. Coleman averaged 26.4 yards per kickoff return and scored two touchdowns. Place-kicker John Carney, capable of startling streaks, was 34 for 38 in field goals.

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Bobby Ross, Head coach
Dave Adolph, Defensive Coordinator
Greg Brown, Secondary Coach
Sylvester Croom, Offensive Backs
John Dunn, Strength & Conditioning
Frank Falks, H-Backs & Tight Ends
Ralph Friedgen, Offensive Coordinator
Dale Lindsey, Linebackers
Carl Mauck, Offensive Line
John Mischiagna, Quality Control
Dennis Murphy, Defensive Line
Chuck Priefer, Special Teams
Dwain Painter, Quarterbacks
Jerry Sullivan, Wide Receivers

CHARGERS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
39	Allred, Brian	CB	5-10	175	27	Sacram. State
50	Binn, David	TE	6-3	234	24	California
11	Brohm, Jeff	QB	6-1	200	25	Louisville
58	Bush, Lewis	LB	6-2	245	26	Wash. State
3	Carney, John	K	5-11	170	32	Notre Dame
44	Castle, Eric	S	6-3	212	26	Oregon
31	Clark, Willie	CB	5-10	186	24	Notre Dame
68	Cocozzo, Joe	CB	6-4	300	25	Michigan
83	Coleman, Andre	WR	5-9	165	25	Kansas State
35	Culver, Rodney	RB	5-9	224	26	Notre Dame
73	Davis, Isaac	G	6-3	325	24	Arkansas
93	Davis, Reuben	DE	6-5	340	31	No. Carolina
60	Engel, Greg	C	6-3	293	25	Illinois
23	Gayle, Shaun	S	5-11	202	34	Ohio State
57	Gibson, Dennis	LB	6-2	240	32	Iowa State
13	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	210	34	California
21	Gordon, Darrien	CB	5-11	182	25	Stanford
92	Griggs, David	DE	6-3	250	29	Virginia
53	Hall, Courtney	C	6-1	281	27	Rice
33	Harmon, Ronnie	RB	5-11	207	32	Iowa
28	Harper, Dwayne	CB	5-11	175	30	S. C. State
37	Harrison, Rodney	S	6-0	201	23	W. Illinois
34	Hendrickson, Steve	LB	6-0	250	29	California
12	Humphries, Stan	QB	6-2	223	31	NE Louisiana
80	Jefferson, Shawn	WR	5-11	172	27	Central Fla.
99	Johnson, Raylee	DE	6-3	245	26	Arkansas
74	Jonassen, Eric	T	6-5	310	27	Bloomsburg
97	Krein, Darren	DE	6-4	258	24	Miami
84	Laing, Aaron	TE	6-3	264	24	New Mex. St.
98	Lee, Shawn	DT	6-2	300	29	No. Alabama
81	Martin, Tony	WR	6-0	181	30	Mesa State
88	May, Deems	TE	6-4	263	27	No. Carolina
20	Means, Natrone	RB	5-10	245	24	No. Carolina

71	Milnichik, Joe	G	6-5	300	33	N. C. State
95	Miller, Les	NT	6-7	285	31	Fort Hays St.
94	Mims, Chris	DE	6-5	290	25	Tennessee
89	Mitchell, Shannon	TE	6-2	245	24	Georgia
77	Moten, Eric	T	6-2	306	28	Michigan S.
91	O'Neal, Leslie	DE	6-4	265	32	Oklahoma St.
26	Oriando, Bo	S	5-10	180	30	West Virginia
70	Parker, Vaughn	G	6-3	296	25	UCLA
97	Parrella, John	DE	6-3	296	26	Nebraska
27	Pool, David	CB	5-9	182	29	Carson-New.
86	Pupunu, Alfred	TE	6-2	255	26	Weber State
55	Seau, Junior	LB	6-3	250	27	USC
82	Seay, Mark	WR	6-0	175	29	Long Beach St.
72	Swayne, Harry	T	6-5	295	31	Rutgers
79	Thomas, Cornell	DE	6-3	250	23	West Georgia
9	Wagner, Bryan	P	6-2	200	34	Northridge St.
96	Winter, Blaise	DT	6-4	295	34	Syracuse
87	Young, Duane	TE	6-1	270	28	Michigan St.

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
2	Sanders, Frank	WR	6-2	200	Auburn
2	Shaw, Terrance	CB	5-11	189	Stephen F. Austin
2	Fletcher, Terrell	RB	5-8	195	Wisconsin
3	Oliver, Jimmy	WR	5-10	175	Texas Christian
3	Sasa, Don	DT	6-2	287	Washington State
3	Harrison, Preston	LB	6-5	244	Ohio State
4	Cowart, Chris	LB	6-2	236	Florida State
4	Hayden, Aaron	RB	5-11	212	Tennessee
5	Ellison, Omar	WR	6-1	200	Florida State
6	Sienkiewicz, Troy	OG	6-4	300	New Mexico State
6	Harrison, Brandon	WR	5-10	181	Howard Payne
6	Whelihan, Craig	QB	6-5	204	Pacific
6	Berti, Tony	OG	6-5	288	Colorado
7	Montreuil, Mark	CB	6-0	180	Concordia (CAN.)

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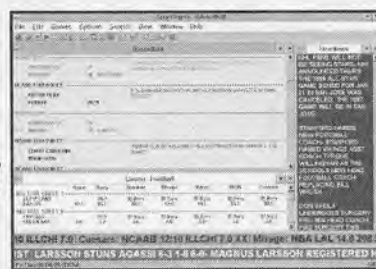
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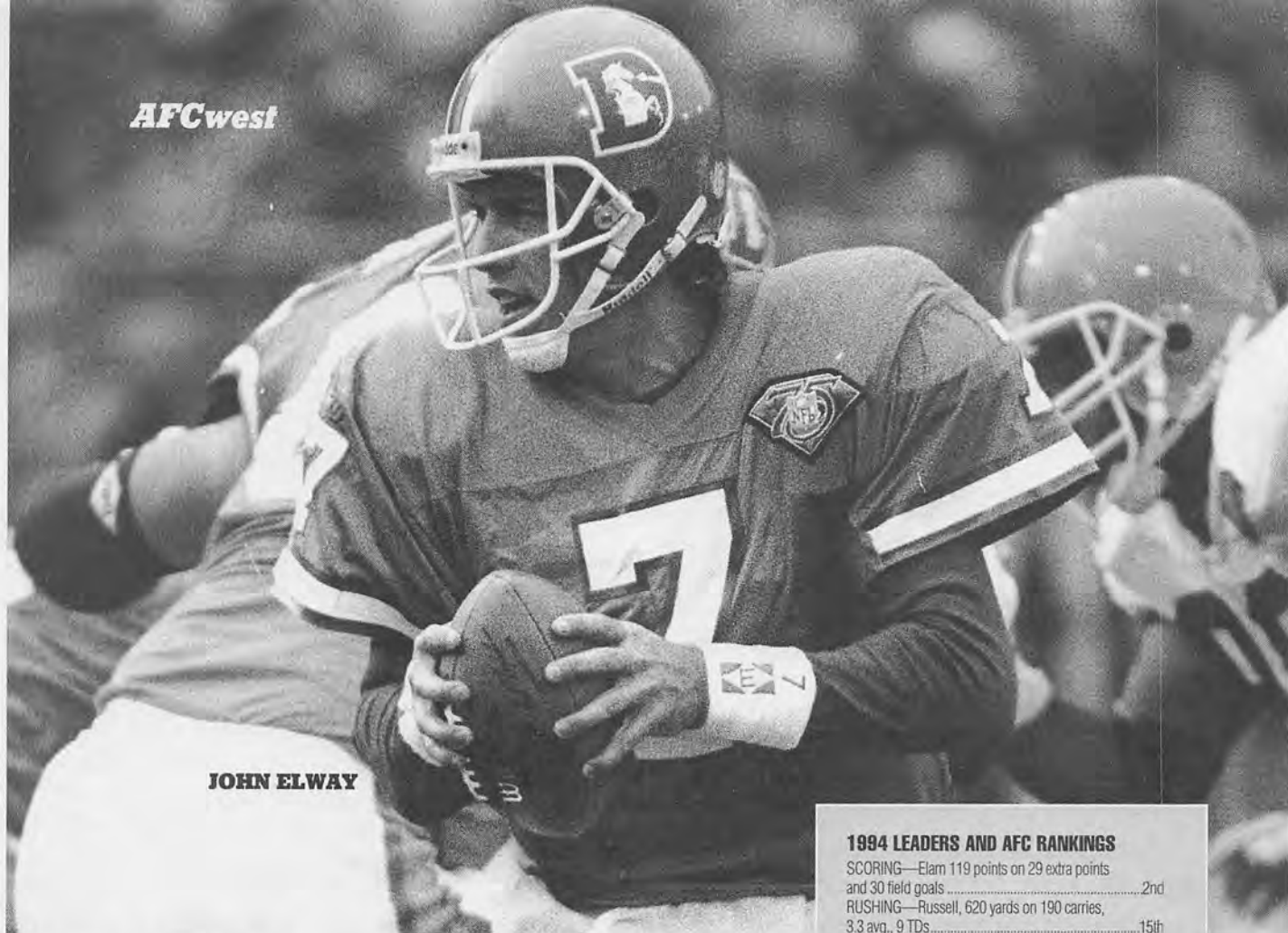
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JOHN ELWAY

DENVER BRONCOS

A little change usually puts some zest into one's life, but the Denver Broncos seem to be making it their life's work. Since free agency began, no team has leaped into the pool more enthusiastically. Last winter, when free-agency shopping commenced for 1995, the Broncos signed 10 players in the first 21 days. There will be at least seven new starters by opening day, to say nothing of a completely new outlook under a new coach, Mike Shanahan.



What will it accomplish? Maybe less success than last season, when the Broncos slipped to 7-9 and Wade Phillips got fired after just two years on the job.

This year most of the big money was thrown at defensive free agents. That's because team owner Pat Bowlen was humiliated by Denver's No. 28 ranking in the NFL in both total defense and pass defense. The largest check, \$7.3 million for three years (including a \$3 million signing bonus), was thrown at Michael Dean Perry, the ex-Cleveland tackle. The Browns thought their one-time star was on a steep slide. The Carolina Panthers, who will open in Perry's old college stadium in Clemson, thought the decline and his less than enthusiastic work habits made Perry a risk and passed. The Broncos signed another Cleveland defensive tackle, James Jones, who got about 25 percent of the playing time, for \$4.8 million over three years. They also signed corner-

back Lionel Washington of the Raiders, but he turns 35 in October. Britt Hager, a marginal player for Philadelphia, was signed to play right linebacker and Tim Hauck to be the strong safety.

That not only sounds like change for the sake of change, it smacks of desperation. It can be partially excused since most of Denver's premium draft choices had been dealt away in previous moves. Bowlen and his anxious minions had to twiddle their thumbs into the fourth round before they took an offensive tackle from Florida A&M named Jamie Brown with the 121st pick overall. He's an immense size (6-8, 349) who needs a mountain of development.

What the Broncos need to do most is get a delayed return on their 1994 investments in wide receivers Mike Pritchard and Anthony Miller. Pritchard started quickly, then suffered a kidney ailment which took him out of the lineup for the rest of the year. He had just 19 receptions. Miller dawdled through most of the season, then showed his Pro Bowl pedigree when it was too late. If quarterback John Elway is to have a last hurrah, both Miller and Pritchard must have big years. Miller had a 1,000-yard performance on 60 catches, including a per-catch average of 18.5 yards, but that did not reflect his entire season. Even if Miller and Pritchard do perform as originally expected, Elway may find it comfortable to have possession receiver Ed McCaffrey, signed from the 49ers, on the field.

One of Shanahan's first tasks will be to convince Elway that he is 35 now, and that his dancer's feet don't shuffle quite so slick-

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Elam 119 points on 29 extra points and 30 field goals	2nd
RUSHING—Russell, 620 yards on 190 carries, 3.3 avg., 9 TDs	15th
PASSING—Elway, 307 of 494 attempts for 3,490 yards and 16 TDs	2nd
RECEIVING—Sharpe, 87 receptions for 1,010 yards, 11.6 avg., 4 TDs	4th
INTERCEPTIONS—Jones, 2 for 9 yards, 4.5 average	T33rd
Hilliard, 2 for 8 yards, 4.0 average	T33rd
Crockett, 2 for 6 yards, 3.0 average	T33rd
PUNTING—Rouen, 76 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 59 yards	4th
PUNT RETURNS—Milburn, 41 for 379 yards, 9.2 average	6th
KICKOFF RETURNS—By Nafe, 24 for 545 yards, 22.7 average	4th
SACKS—Fletcher, 7.0 sacks	T16th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

July	29	SAN FRANCISCO (N)
August	5	vs. San Francisco at Tokyo (N)
	12	At Carolina (N)
	21	DALLAS (N)
	25	At Jacksonville (N)

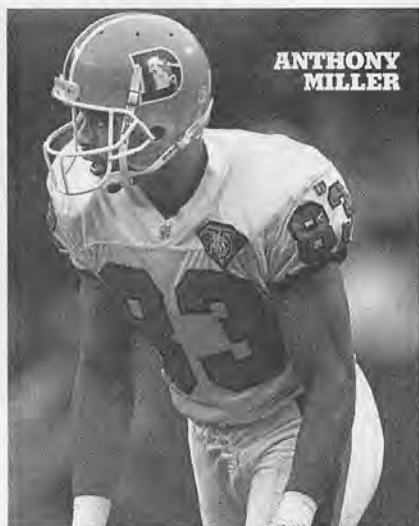
1995 SCHEDULE

1994 SCORES

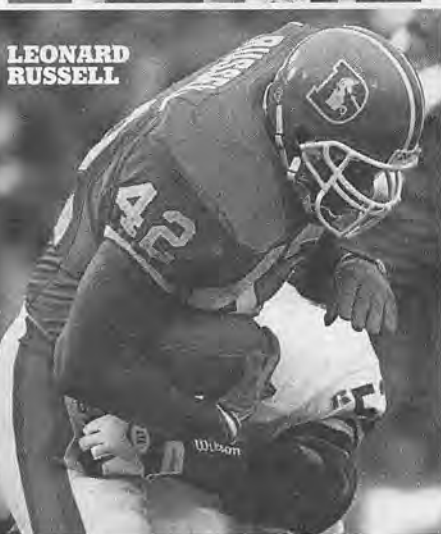
September	3	BUFFALO (N)	20-27
	10	At Dallas	—
	17	WASHINGTON	—
	24	At San Diego	20-15
October	1	At Seattle	16-9
	8	At New England (N)	—
	16	L.A. RAIDERS (N)	16-48
	22	KANSAS CITY	28-31
	29	OPEN DATE	—
November	5	ARIZONA	—
	12	At Philadelphia (N)	—
	19	SAN DIEGO	34-37
	26	At Houston	—
December	3	JACKSONVILLE	—
	10	SEATTLE	17-10
	17	At Kansas City	20-17
	24	At L.A. Raiders	13-23

ly any longer. Elway will have to learn fast the nuances of his foreign legion of receivers so that he can more quickly anticipate when they will break. That's one of the problems when the supporting cast changes so often. Elway's most reliable aide, as usual, was tight end Shannon Sharpe, who had 87 catches for 1,010 yards and four touchdowns despite a year in which he was frequently nicked.

Denver's line surrendered 55 sacks a year ago, which is far too many when your meal ticket quarterback is eyeball-to-eyeball with football middle age. Only two starters from 1994 return: Gary Zimmerman, the Pro Bowl tackle whose acquisition required so many of those draft choices; and right guard Brian Habib. The new left



ANTHONY MILLER



LEONARD RUSSELL

guard is one-time Washington Super Bowl mainstay Mark Schlereth, the well-traveled Broderick Thompson is the right tackle, and Tom Nalen is the center.

Shanahan doesn't believe in conventional running backs or fullbacks in his offensive scheme. His ideal is the sort of back Ricky Watters was for San Francisco. That is, a versatile threat. "We're looking for that kind of balanced back, a guy who can run and catch the ball," he said. Shanahan will have a raft of suspects in his camp, including Leonard Russell, the ex-Patriot whose first

year as a Bronco was hampered by a ruptured disk in his neck. Even so, he was the club's leading rusher (620 yards) and No. 4 receiver (38 catches for 227 yards). The rest of the crowd includes the undersized Glyn Milburn (201 rushing yards and 77 catches for 549 yards), Rod Bernstine, Reggie Rivers, ex-Dolphin Aaron Craver, and hefty Derrick Clark.

Shanahan is satisfied with his defensive free agents. The Broncos had the fewest sacks in the AFC (23), but the coming of Perry and Jones, he said, caused the line to become the "our strongest position after it was our weakest position." Perry will play right tackle alongside pass-rush ace Simon Fletcher, who led the team with seven sacks. Shane Dronett and Jones will share left tackle next to Dan Williams. Hager will play right outside linebacker. Elijah Alexander would play the weak side with the middle a mystery. Rookies Ken Brown of Virginia Tech or Phil Yeboah-Kodie of Penn State could slip in. Washington will line up at corner opposite Ray Crockett. Former Jet Eric Thomas was signed as a nickel back. Steve Atwater moves back to free safety to accommodate Hauck.

Place-kicker Jason Elam was deadly inside the 39, barely .500 beyond. Punter Tom Rouen's net average, 37.1 yards, was the NFL's best.

DENVER BRONCOS

Mike Shanahan, Head Coach
Frank Bush, Linebackers
Alex Gibbs, Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line
Gary Kubiak, Offensive Coordinator/-Quarterbacks
Greg Robinson, Defensive Coordinator
Barney Chavous, Defensive Assistant
Ed Donatell, Defensive Backs
George Dyer, Defensive Line
Mike Heimerdinger, Wide Receivers
Brian Pariani, Tight Ends
Al Reynolds, Defensive Assistant
Richard Smith, Special Teams
Bobby Turner, Running Backs
Rich Tuten, Strength & Conditioning



MICHAEL DEAN PERRY

BRONCOS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
57	Aldridge, Allen	LB	6-1	243	24	Houston
58	Alexander, Elijah	LB	6-2	230	25	Kansas State
27	Atwater, Steve	S	6-3	217	29	Arkansas
33	Bernstine, Rod	RB	6-3	238	31	Texas A&M
82	Bonner, Melvin	WR	6-3	207	26	Baylor
23	Bradford, Ronnie	CB	5-10	188	25	Colorado
60	Burch, Joe	C	6-1	282	24	Texas So.
56	Burns, Keith	LB	6-1	233	24	Oklahoma St.
28	ByNot'e, Butler	CB	5-9	188	23	Ohio State
86	Campbell, Jeff	WR	5-8	167	28	Colorado
20	Canley, Sheldon	RB	5-9	195	28	San Jose St.
89	Carswell, Dwayne	TE	6-3	261	24	Liberty
43	Clark, Derrick	RB	6-1	235	25	Evangel
44	Craver, Aaron	RB	6-0	220	27	Fresno State
39	Crockett, Ray	CB	5-10	185	29	Baylor
54	Donahue, Mitch	LB	6-2	254	28	Wyoming
99	Dronett, Shane	DE	6-6	275	25	Texas
97	Drozdz, Darren	DT	6-3	280	27	Maryland
1	Elam, Jason	K	5-11	192	26	Hawaii
7	Elway, John	QB	6-3	215	35	Stanford
88	Evans, Jerry	TE	6-4	250	27	Toledo
73	Fletcher, Simon	LB	6-5	240	34	Houston
68	Freeman, Russell	T	6-7	290	26	Georgia Tech
24	Fuller, Randy	CB	5-9	173	26	Tennessee St.
2	Furrer, Will	CB	6-3	209	28	Virginia Tech
54	Hager, Britt	LB	6-1	225	30	Texas
40	Hall, Darryl	S	6-2	210	29	Washington
96	Hasselbach, Harald	DE	6-6	280	28	Washington
24	Hauck, Tim	S	5-10	185	29	Montana
21	Hilliard, Randy	CB	5-11	160	29	NW Louisiana
50	Jacobs, Ray	LB	6-2	244	23	No. Carolina
69	Johnson, Chuck	T	6-5	275	27	Texas
89	Johnson, Vance	WR	5-11	180	33	Arizona
96	Jones, James	DT	6-2	290	27	Northern Iowa
31	Jones, Rondell	S	6-2	210	25	No. Carolina
72	Kartz, Keith	C	6-4	270	33	California
80	Kimbrough, Tony	WR	6-2	192	25	Jackson State
67	Lanier, Ken	T	6-3	290	36	Florida State
73	Lodish, Mike	NT	6-3	280	28	UCLA
78	Maggs, Don	T	6-5	290	34	Tulane
81	McCaffrey, Ed	WR	6-5	215	27	Stanford
77	Mecklenburg, Karl	LB	6-3	235	35	Minnesota
61	Meeks, Bob	C	6-2	279	27	Auburn
64	Melander, Jon	G	6-7	280	29	Minnesota
22	Milburn, Glyn	RB	5-8	177	25	Stanford
17	Millen, Hugh	QB	6-5	216	32	Washington
83	Miller, Anthony	WR	5-11	190	31	Tennessee
14	Musgrave, Bill	QB	6-2	205	28	Oregon
66	Nalen, Tom	C	6-2	280	25	Boston Col.
91	Oshodin, Willie	DE	6-4	260	26	Villanova
92	Perry, Michael Dean	DT	6-1	285	30	Clemson
81	Pritchard, Mike	WR	5-10	190	26	Colorado
38	Rivers, Reggie	RB	6-1	215	28	SW Texas St.
94	Robinson, Jeff	DE	6-4	265	26	Idaho
16	Rouen, Tom	P	6-3	215	28	Colorado
85	Russell, Derek	WR	6-0	179	27	Arkansas
42	Russell, Leonard	RB	6-2	235	26	Arizona State
69	Schlereth, Mark	G	6-3	278	30	Idaho
69	Schultz, William	G	6-5	305	29	USC
84	Sharpe, Shannon	TE	6-2	230	28	Savannah St.
26	Smith, Ben	CB	5-11	185	29	Georgia
49	Smith, Dennis	S	6-3	200	37	USC
41	Strother, Deon	RB	5-11	213	24	USC
22	Thomas, Eric	CB	5-11	184	31	Tulane
76	Thompson, Broderick	T	6-5	295	35	Kansas
87	Wainwright, Frank	TE	6-3	245	28	N. Colorado
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	185	35	Tulane
90	Williams, Dan	DE	6-4	290	26	Toledo
92	Wyman, David	LB	6-2	248	32	Stanford
65	Zimmerman, Gary	T	6-6	294	34	Oregon

DRAFTTEES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
4	Brown, Jamie	OT	6-8	349	Florida A&M
4	Brown, Ken	LB	6-1	235	Virginia Tech
5	Yeboah-Kodie, Phil	LB	6-2	220	Penn State
6	Fequiere, Fritz	OG	6-2	289	Iowa
6	Davis, Terrell	RB	5-11	210	Georgia
7	Russ, Steve	LB	6-5	237	Air Force
7	Chamberlain, Byron	WR	6-1	226	Wayne State (NE)

AFC west

RICK MIRER

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SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

For years Dennis Erickson had been the hot NFL candidate among college coaches. Virtually no job opened up without his name being attached to it in some way. Finally came the irresistible opportunity in his home



territory of Seattle. The problem was that once Erickson got home, he found he had an inordinate amount of spade-work to do. He had a brilliant young quarterback with few legitimate targets. He had a tough defense which hadn't been living up to its reputation. His offense ranked 24th and his defense 23rd last year. Thus, there was no head-scratching over why the won-lost record was 6-10.

Lucky for Erickson that he showed up at a time when player movement and quick makeovers are the vogue. The Seahawks aren't going to make any big leaps in the new coach's first year, since they suffered some damaging free-agent losses, including seven starters. They should climb out of last place in the AFC West however, and do it with a lot more firepower than recent Seattle teams have shown.

Rick Mirer came into the NFL the same year as Drew Bledsoe and there was an argument then about which one would develop faster. It was a contest for a season, but in 1994 Bledsoe became a superstar-in-embryo for New England. Mirer threw for

fewer yards than Jeff Blake, who didn't even break into Cincinnati's starting lineup until midseason. No full-time starter threw for fewer touchdowns than Mirer's meager 11.

So Erickson made it his priority to accumulate a supporting cast for the former Notre Dame star. He invited a parade of free agents into Seattle for auditions before settling on the trade route to acquire Ricky Proehl, a solid possession receiver from Arizona who ended up on Buddy Ryan's "banished" list. Then, in the draft, Erickson took the speediest receiver available, Joey Galloway, Ohio State's game-breaker. Gal-

loway has what the scouts call "great separation," which means he can simply run away from most defensive backs assigned to cover him. Against Alabama in the Citrus Bowl, he caught eight passes for 146 yards and two touchdowns. In the East-West Shrine Bowl he was the Most Valuable Player. He also contributes as a kick-returner and as a guy who can break a big run on a reverse. After Galloway came sure-handed tight end Christian Fauria of Colorado.

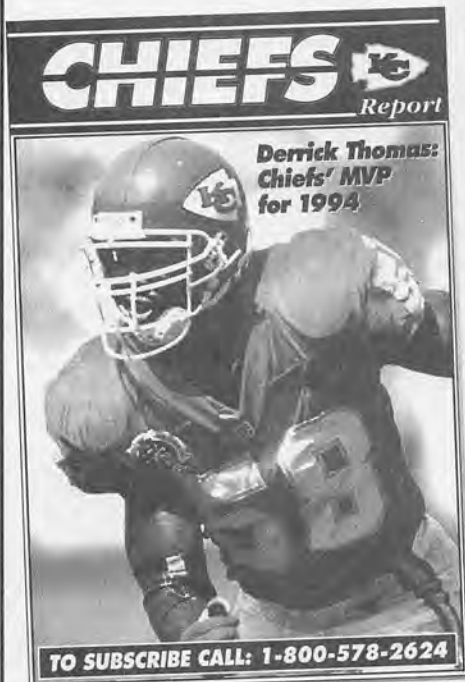
What all this means is that Brian Blades won't catch 81 passes, as he did a year ago, but that he may be more valuable to Mirer now that the opposing defenses have to pay attention to Galloway and Proehl, to say nothing of the most underrated running back in the NFL, Chris Warren. Warren's 1,545 yards rushing were second only to the 1,883 yards by Barry Sanders in '94. He has quietly evolved from a spot player to a third-down specialist to a workhorse in the Emmitt Smith-Natrone Means category. There wasn't a feature back in the AFC who approached Warren's 4.6-yard per-carry average. When John L. Williams left for Pittsburgh, Warren also became the premier pass-catching back among the Seahawks. He had 41 receptions last year. With that sort of arsenal, the Seattle faithful expect more than a wimpy 18 points per game.

The Seahawks spent serious money a year ago to lure right tackle Howard Ballard from Buffalo, and a lot of Warren's yardage

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Dennis Erickson, Head Coach
Gregg Smith, Assistant Head Coach/Tight Ends
Bob Bratkowski, Offensive Coordinator/ Wide Receivers
Greg McMackin, Defensive Coordinator
Dave Arnold, Special Teams
Tommy Brasher, Defensive Line
Dave Brown, Defensive Coach
Tom Catlin, Quality Control
Dana LeDuc, Strength & Conditioning
Howard Mudd, Offensive Line
Mike Murphy, Linebackers
Rich Olson, Quarterbacks
Willy Robinson, Defensive Backs
Clarence Shelmon, Running Backs

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went through him. This year the Seahawks lost their veteran center, Ray Donaldson to Dallas, and made a patch-up move to replace him, signing veteran Jim Sweeney, formerly with the Jets. Sweeney was considered expendable by New York, which cut him in the midst of his long consecutive-game streak. But he's a proud man and powerfully motivated. Sweeney's arrival means that Kevin Mawae stays at guard for another year, along Jeff Blackshear, whom Erickson wants to weigh less than the 350 pounds he brought to mini-camp. Fauria's arrival brings more dimension to tight end since the Seahawks already had Paul Green and Carlester Crumpler. Erickson can play it both conservatively and more wide-open. The new coach also covered himself by signing an experienced backup quarterback, John Freisz, the one-time San Diego starter who played for Washington last year.

From a psychological standpoint, Erickson's main task defensively is to convince Cortez Kennedy, a standout for him at the University of Miami, that he has to be the "Tez" of 1993 again, tying up traffic in the middle of the line so that the Seahawks won't be such a patsy against the run. Only Tampa Bay, Houston, and Washington had worse rushing defenses. Erickson also has to decide whether he wants to position Sam Adams, a player with vast potential, alongside Kennedy inside or to station him at end in order to provide more punch for a pass rush that had only 29 sacks. Mike Sinclair will play the other end.

The Seahawks lost starting linebackers Rod Stephens and Rufus Porter to free agency, but considering their shoddy

record against the run, maybe it was time for a change. Terry Wooden is the most stable returnee and the other jobs should be up for grabs among Duane Bickett, Dean Wells, and Bob Spitulski. Signed from Washington was Tyrone Stowe, who has a reputation as a run-stopper. Ex-Raider Winston Moss, who almost started a riot when he maltreated Mirer in a game last year, also wears a Seattle uniform now.

News from the secondary is rosier. The Seahawks ended up with five defensive backs on injured reserve a year ago. Cornerback Nate Odomes, an expensive addition from Buffalo, didn't get to play at all because of major knee surgery, but now he's back healthy. Eugene Robinson, possibly the best free safety in the league before he blew out his Achilles' tendon, returns as well. Odomes and Robinson tied for the AFC lead with nine interceptions each two years ago. Carlton Gray, also healthy again, is Odomes's partner. Kirby Jackson, another veteran, returns from the injured list.

There are major problems on the special teams. Place-kicker John Kasay defected to the Carolina Panthers and Michael Bates, once a return-coverage

ace, suffered a series of concussions. Corey Harris was signed from Green Bay as a return man and nickel back. Punter Rick Tuten went to the Pro Bowl.

SEAHAWKS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
98	Adams, Sam	DE	6-3	285	23	Texas A&M
74	Atkins, James	G	6-6	291	26	SW Louisiana
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6-6	336	32	Alabama A&M
85	Barrett, Reggie	WR	6-3	215	26	Texas-El Paso
81	Bates, Michael	WR	5-10	189	26	Arizona
20	Bellamy, Jay	S	5-11	177	23	Rutgers
50	Bickett, Duane	LB	6-5	251	33	USC
25	Blackmon, Robert	S	6-0	197	29	Baylor
69	Blackshear, Jeff	G	6-6	315	27	NE Louisiana
89	Blades, Brian	WR	5-11	189	30	Miami
51	Brandon, David	LB	6-4	230	31	Memphis
29	Brown, Tony	CB	5-9	183	26	Fresno State
22	Bryant, Beno	RB	5-9	170	25	Washington
	Covington, Tony	S	5-11	190	28	Virginia
48	Crumpler, Carlester	TE	6-6	255	24	East Carolina
23	Duckett, Forey	S	6-3	195	26	Nevada
67	Edwards, Antonio	DE	6-3	270	26	Valdosta State
59	Ferrolle, Mitch	G	6-3	286	31	Penn State
92	Frier, Mike	DT	6-5	299	27	Appal. St.
17	Friesz, John	QB	6-4	218	29	Idaho
18	Gelbaugh, Stan	QB	6-3	207	33	Maryland
7	Graham, Jeff	QB	6-5	220	30	Long Beach St.
26	Gray, Carlton	CB	6-0	191	25	UCLA
87	Green, Paul	TE	6-3	230	29	usc
30	Harris, Corey	CB	5-11	195	26	Vanderbilt
11	Harris, Ron	WR	5-10	170	26	Oregon
76	Hitchcock, Bill	G	6-6	291	30	Purdue
47	Jackson, Kirby	CB	5-10	180	31	Miss. St.
43	Johnson, Tracy	RB	6-0	230	29	Clemson
83	Junkin, Trey	TE	6-2	237	35	La. Tech
78	Keim, Mike	T	6-7	301	30	BYU
96	Kennedy, Cortez	DT	6-3	293	27	Miami
34	Lambert, Dion	S	6-0	185	27	UCLA
52	Mawae, Kevin	G	6-4	286	25	LSU
44	McCloughan, Dave	S	6-1	185	29	Colorado
99	McCrary, Michael	DE	6-4	250	25	Wake Forest
19	McKnight, James	WR	6-0	181	24	Liberty
3	Mirer, Rick	QB	6-2	216	26	Notre Dame
71	Moody, Mike	T	6-7	305	27	USC
	Moss, Winston	LB	6-3	240	30	Miami
72	Nash, Joseph	DT	6-3	278	35	Boston Col.
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5-10	188	30	Wisconsin
2	Peterson, Todd	K	5-10	176	26	Georgia
	Proehl, Ricky	WR	6-0	190	28	Wake Forest
73	Roberts, Ray	T	6-6	304	27	Virginia
41	Robinson, Eugene	S	6-0	191	33	Colgate
21	Robinson, Rafael	S	5-11	200	27	Wisconsin
70	Sinclair, Michael	DE	6-4	271	28	E. New Mex.
36	Smith, Lamar	RB	5-11	230	25	Houston
35	Smith, Steve	RB	6-1	240	31	Penn State
28	Speer, Del	S	6-0	200	26	Florida
58	Spitulski, Bob	LB	6-3	235	26	Central Fla.
	Stowe, Tyrone	LB	6-1	247	31	Rutgers
38	Strong, Mack	RB	6-0	211	24	Georgia
53	Sweeney, Jim	C	6-4	286	33	Pittsburgh
24	Taylor, Terry	CB	5-10	185	34	S. Illinois
86	Thomas, Robb	WR	5-11	175	30	Oregon State
56	Tofflemire, Joe	C	6-3	273	30	Arizona
14	Tuten, Rick	P	6-2	218	31	Florida State
42	Warren, Chris	RB	6-2	225	29	Ferrum
88	Warren, Terrence	WR	6-1	200	26	Hampton
31	Watters, Orlando	CB	5-11	177	24	Arkansas
95	Wells, Dean	LB	6-3	238	25	Kentucky
61	Werner, Matt	DE	6-3	265	25	UCLA
93	Williams, Brent	DE	6-4	275	31	Toledo
90	Wooden, Terry	LB	6-3	239	29	Syracuse

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Galloway, Joey	WR	5-10	188	Ohio State
2	Fauria, Christian	TE	6-4	243	Colorado
4	Kyle, Jason	LB	6-2	245	Arizona State
6	McMillian, Henry	DT	6-3	276	Florida
6	Goines, Eddie	WR	6-0	187	N. C. State
7	Bryant, Keif	DE	6-4	274	Rutgers

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Kasay 85 points on 25 extra points and 20 field goals	T12th
RUSHING—Warren, 1,545 yards on 333 carries, 4.6 avg., 9 TDs	1st
PASSING—Mirer, 195 of 381 attempts for 2,151 yards and 11 TDs	12th
RECEIVING—Blades, 81 receptions for 1,086 yards, 13.4 avg., 4 TDs	5th
INTERCEPTIONS—Wooden, 3 for 78 yards, 26.0 average, 1 TD	T16th
Watters, 3 for 39 yards, 13.0 average, 1 TD	T16th
Robinson, 3 for 18 yards, 6.0 average	T16th
Hunter, 3 for 85 yards, 28.3 average	T16th
PUNTING—Tuten, 91 punts, 42.9 avg., longest 64 yards	3rd
PUNT RETURNS—Martin, 33 for 280 yards, 8.5 average	8th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Bates, 26 for 508 yards, 19.5 average	14th
SACKS—Sinclair, 4.5 sacks	T35th

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	ST. LOUIS (N)
	12	INDIANAPOLIS (N)
	20	At New Orleans
	26	At San Francisco

1995 SCHEDULE

September	3	KANSAS CITY	10-9
	10	At San Diego	15-35
	17	CINCINNATI	17-20
	24	OPEN DATE	
October	1	DENVER	9-16
	8	At L.A. Raiders	38-9
	15	At Buffalo	
	22	SAN DIEGO	10-24
	29	At Arizona	
November	5	N.Y. GIANTS	
	12	At Jacksonville	
	19	At Washington	28-7
	26	N.Y. JETS	
December	3	PHILADELPHIA	
	10	At Denver	10-17
	17	L.A. RAIDERS (N)	16-17
	24	At Kansas City	23-38
	21	MINNESOTA	23-17
	7	L.A. Raiders	3-24
	15	MINNESOTA	23-17



CHRIS WARREN



CORTEZ KENNEDY



STEVE BONO

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

No wonder Carl Peterson, the Chiefs' president, got cranky every time a story would surface last spring about the impending announcement of Joe Montana's retirement. The Kansas City front office had convinced itself that Montana would play one more season and solid contingency plans had not been made.

The two-year Montana experiment was over in a blink. Joe brought the Chiefs to the brink of the 1993 Super Bowl, but that ended in a haze as he lay on the frigid field of Rich Stadium with a concussion, the victim of the Bills' relentless pass

rush. He thought about quitting then. Peterson's problem, and that of coach Marty Schottenheimer, is that Montana departed without leaving any footsteps in Missouri. There is no legacy. It was a quick almost-fix and then it was over. The general consensus is that Kansas City is now on an immediate descent.

Left in Montana's wake is Steve Bono, Montana's old backup first in San Francisco and then in Kansas City. There is no evidence that Bono could be a full-time, effective starter. Perennial prospect Matt Blundin got game experience with the Scottish Claymores in the re-established World League in the spring. Rich Gannon, an NFL gypsy who didn't play last year, signed as a free agent. Steve Stenstrom of Stanford was drafted in the fourth round. He is a smart quarterback who certainly knows the West Coast offense as taught by his college coach, Bill Walsh.

But Stenstrom's brother Jeff, a Cornell line-backer, died of a rare disease in April, and it's difficult to predict how that tragedy will effect the rookie.

Montana never had a corps of receivers in Kansas City the likes of his colleagues in San Francisco, but the master made the best of it. That will be much more difficult for his successors to do. The most promising target on the roster now is Lake Dawson, who caught 37 passes as a rookie for a 14.5-yard per-catch average and two touchdowns. His progress has to be accelerated, especially in view of the free-agency defection of J.J. Birden. Willie Davis is the major deep threat. He caught 51 passes for five touchdowns and a 16.1-yard average. The Chiefs made a major reach in the draft, selecting Tamarick Vanover in the second round. Vanover was a big talent for Florida State but left school after his second season for the Canadian League, where he was a disappointment. Schottenheimer has to stand over him to make him work, control his weight, and attempt to reach maturity. The tight ends, Derrick Walker (36 catches for 382 yards) and Keith Cash (19 for 192), are valued more as blockers.

The running game is at the crossroads, too. Kansas City's leading runner last season was Marcus Allen, one of the National Football League's venerable antiques, who gained 709 yards. It made some sense with Montana at quarterback. With Allen at age 35, it makes little sense, particularly when stability is not the hallmark at quarterback any longer. The Chiefs' Greg Hill got the ball 50 fewer times as a rookie than Allen did yet managed 574 yards. Donnell Bennett,

1994 LEADERS AND AFC RANKINGS

SCORING—Elliott 105 points on 30 extra points and 25 field goals	8th
RUSHING—Allen, 709 yards on 189 carries, 3.8 avg., 7 TDs	12th
PASSING—Montana, 299 of 493 attempts for 3,283 yards and 16 TDs	4th
RECEIVING—Anders, 67 receptions for 525 yards, 7.8 avg., 1 TD	13th
INTERCEPTIONS—Mincy, 3 for 49 yards, 16.3 average	T16th
PUNTING—Aguiar, 85 punts, 42.1 avg., longest 61 yards	7th
PUNT RETURNS—Hughes, 27 for 192 yards, 7.1 average	13th
KICKOFF RETURNS—Vaughn, 33 for 829 yards, 25.1 average, 2 TDs	3rd
SACKS—Smith, 11.5 sacks	3rd

PRESEASON SCHEDULE

August	5	WASHINGTON (N)
	11	At Arizona (N)
	19	BUFFALO (N)
	26	At Minnesota

1995 SCHEDULE

		1994 SCORES
September	3	At Seattle.....9-10
	10	N.Y. GIANTS.....—
	17	L.A. RAIDERS.....13-3
	24	At Cleveland.....20-13
October	1	At Arizona.....—
	9	SAN DIEGO (N).....13-14
	15	NEW ENGLAND.....—
	22	At Denver.....31-28
	29	OPEN DATE.....—
November	5	WASHINGTON.....—
	12	At San Diego.....6-20
	19	HOUSTON (N).....31-9
	23	At Dallas.....—
December	3	At L.A. Raiders.....19-9
	11	At Miami (N).....28-45
	17	DENVER.....17-20
	24	SEATTLE.....38-23

another rookie, added 178 yards, suggesting that more frequent use would produce greater results. Fullback Kimble Anders is a hard-knocking fullback who led the Chiefs with 67 catches and can also run for the tough yardage. It may be time to rethink the strategy. Controlling the ball on offense, an old Schottenheimer ploy, and leaving everything else to the defense, underachievers last year, might be the wisest policy now.

The interior of the offensive line is O.K., with Tim Grunhard at center and David Szott and Will Shields at guard, but the worry is at tackle, even though the unit allowed only 19 sacks last year. Left tackle John Alt, 33, is thinking retirement. On the right side, Jeff Criswell was signed from the Jets. The Chiefs used their first-round draft choice to select Trezell Jenkins, the Michigan tackle who needs about a year's polishing. The new line coach is Art Shell, the ex-Raider head coach.

Most of the work will have to be on defense, where the talent on hand does not equate to the results. That's why both defensive coordinator Dave Adolph and line coach Tom Pratt were let go after the season. Kansas City's statistics and rankings read a lot better than the actual performances, considering the skill here. Any pass rush with Derrick Thomas producing 11 sacks on one side and Neil Smith producing 11.5 on the other is formidable. Throw in seven sacks by young Darren Mickell and the rush looks even tougher. The problem is the inconsistency. It's much easier to run against the Chiefs than to pass against them. Joe Phillips is still a force inside, but Dan Saleaumua, once Pro Bowl quality, has declined.

None of the linebackers are killers against the run, either. Thomas is your basic pass-rushing outside linebacker. Tracy Simien led the team with 99 tackles. The Chiefs would like to improve on George Jamieson. The draft brought Troy Dumas, the Nebraska linebacker, and Jerrott Willard, California's hard-hitting inside man. The secondary is beginning to look like Jets-West. The Chiefs signed three guys New York had found wanting: safety Brian Washington, cornerback James Hasty, and the legendary Ronnie Lott. Hasty appealed to Kansas City since he is a better man-to-man coverage corner than incumbent Mark

Collins. Washington and ex-Cincinnati Bengal David Fulcher will be the new safeties. The standout is right corner Dale Carter, who could bid for the Pro Bowl. What Gunther Cunningham, the new defensive coordinator plans to do with Lott is a mystery.

Lin Elliott, the ex-Cowboy, kicked 25 field goals in 30 attempts, 18 of which came inside the 20-yard line, telling you all you want to know about Kansas City's scoring punch.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Marty Schottenheimer, Head Coach
Gunther Cunningham, Defensive Coordinator
Carl Hairston, Defensive Line
Jimmy Raye, Running Backs
Kurt Schottenheimer, Defensive Backs
Darvin Wallis, Defensive Assistant
Russ Ball, Assistant Strength & Conditioning
Jim Erkenback, Tight Ends
Woodrow Love, Defense & Special Teams Assistant
Dave Radding, Strength & Conditioning
Art Shell, Offensive Line
John Bunting, Linebackers
Paul Hackett, Offensive Coordinator
Mike McCarthy, Quarterbacks
Al Saunders, Asst. Head Coach/Receivers
Mike Stock, Special Teams



LAKE
DAWSON



NEIL SMITH

CHIEFS VETERAN ROSTER

no.	name	pos	ht	wt	age	college
5	Aguilar, Louie	P	6-2	215	30	Utah State
56	Ale, Arnold	LB	6-2	230	26	UCLA
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	210	35	USC
76	Alt, John	T	6-8	307	33	Iowa
38	Anders, Kimble	RB	5-11	221	29	Houston
44	Anderson, Darren	CB	5-10	180	27	Toledo
85	Bailey, Victor	WR	6-2	196	25	Missouri
30	Bennett, Donnell	RB	5-11	241	23	Miami
14	Blundin, Matt	QB	6-6	233	27	Virginia
13	Bono, Steve	QB	6-4	211	34	UCLA
99	Booker, Vaughn	DE	6-5	283	28	Cincinnati
4	Carroll, Wesley	WR	6-0	183	28	Miami
34	Carter, Dale	CB	6-1	188	26	Tennessee
22	Carter, Perry	CB	6-0	194	24	S. Mississippi
89	Cash, Keith	TE	6-4	240	26	Texas
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	190	32	Fullerton State
69	Criswell, Jeff	T	6-7	291	32	Graceland
31	Crocker, Sean	CB	5-10	191	25	No. Carolina
50	Davis, Anthony	LB	6-0	231	27	Utah
84	Davis, Willie	WR	6-0	172	28	Central Ark.
80	Dawson, Lake	WR	6-1	204	24	Notre Dame
86	Degraffenreid, Allen	WR	6-3	200	26	Ohio State
23	Dickerson, Ron	WR	6-0	206	24	Arkansas
2	Elliott, Lin	K	6-0	182	27	Texas Tech
59	Fields, Jaime	LB	5-11	230	25	Washington
87	Greene, Tracy	TE	6-4	276	23	Grambling
61	Grunhard, Tim	C	6-2	299	28	Notre Dame
53	Hamilton, Rick	LB	6-2	241	26	Central Fla.
40	Hasty, James	CB	6-0	201	31	Washington St.
29	Hill, Greg	RB	5-11	207	24	Texas A&M
9	Houston, Harrison	WR	5-9	170	24	Florida
83	Hughes, Danan	WR	6-1	201	25	Iowa
57	Jamieson, George	LB	6-1	235	33	Cincinnati
45	Johnson, Jimmie	TE	6-2	248	29	Howard
55	Johnson, John	LB	6-3	230	28	Clemson
46	Jones, Victor	RB	5-8	223	28	LSU
65	Knapp, Lindsay	G	6-6	280	26	Notre Dame
88	LaChapelle, Sean	WR	6-3	205	25	UCLA
42	Lott, Ronnie	S	6-1	203	37	USC
51	Manusky, Greg	LB	6-1	233	29	Colgate
85	Martin, Eric	WR	6-1	207	34	LSU
15	Matthews, Steve	QB	6-2	217	25	Memphis
77	McDaniels, Pellom	DE	6-3	278	28	Oregon State
92	Mickell, Darren	DE	6-4	280	25	Florida
81	Penn, Chris	WR	6-0	198	25	Tulsa
75	Phillips, Joe	NT	6-5	300	32	SMU
43	Reece, John	CB	6-0	200	25	Nebraska
39	Richardson, Terry	RB	6-1	205	24	Syracuse
52	Rogers, Tracy	LB	6-2	241	28	Fresno State
97	Saleaumua, Dan	NT	6-0	300	31	Arizona State
90	Shaw, Eric	LB	6-3	248	24	La. Tech
68	Shields, Will	G	6-2	296	24	Nebraska
66	Siglar, Ricky	T	6-7	304	30	San Jose St.
54	Simien, Tracy	LB	6-1	250	29	TCU
90	Smith, Neil	DE	6-4	273	30	Nebraska
47	Stowers, Tommie	TE	6-3	240	29	Missouri
79	Scott, David	G	6-4	290	28	Penn State
27	Taylor, Jay	CB	5-10	170	28	San Jose St.
24	Terry, Doug	S	5-11	197	28	Kansas
58	Thomas, Derrick	LB	6-3	242	29	Alabama
94	Traylor, Keith	LB	6-2	290	26	C. Oklahoma
73	Valerio, Joe	T	6-5	293	27	Pennsylvania
21	Vaughn, Jon	RB	5-9	203	26	Michigan
72	Villa, Danny	G	6-5	300	31	Arizona State
98	Waldrop, Rob	DT	6-1	276	24	Arizona
82	Walker, Derrick	TE	6-0	244	29	Michigan
62	Ware, David	T	6-6	285	26	Virginia
48	Washington, Brian	S	6-1	206	30	Nebraska
26	Watson, Tim	S	6-1	216	25	Howard
35	White, William	S	5-10	191	30	Ohio State
41	Whitmore, David	S	6-0	232	28	S. F. Austin
55	Woolfork, Ronnie	LB	6-2	254	25	Colorado
85	Young, Mike	WR	6-1	183	34	UCLA

DRAFTES

rd.	name	pos	ht	wt	college
1	Jenkins, Trezelle	OT	6-7	322	Michigan
3	Vanover, Tamarick	WR	5-11	215	Florida State
3	Dumas, Troy	LB	6-4	233	Nebraska
4	Stenstrom, Steve	QB	6-2	200	Stanford
5	Pelton, Mike	DT	6-2	287	Auburn
5	Willard, Jerrott	LB	6-0	221	California
6	Proby, Bryan	DE	6-4	280	Arizona State
6	Barndt, Tom	DT	6-3	264	Pittsburgh



CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Michael O'Shea, Hamilton Tiger-Cats

BY RICK MATSUMOTO

TORONTO STAR

PREDICTIONS

NORTHERN DIVISION

1. Calgary Stampeders
2. Toronto Argonauts
3. B.C. Lions
4. Winnipeg Blue Bombers
5. Edmonton Eskimos
6. Saskatchewan Roughriders
7. Hamilton Tiger-Cats
8. Ottawa Rough Riders

SOUTHERN DIVISION

1. Baltimore
2. Shreveport Pirates
3. Memphis Mad Dogs
4. San Antonio Texans
5. Birmingham Barracudas

It's an odd marriage in some ways, one that might best be described as a marriage of convenience. The Canadian Football League's expansion into the U.S. has not been, as you might expect, a matter of creeping across the 49th parallel into bordering states such as New York, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, or Washington.

Instead, the league has vaulted all the way into the heart of Dixie. With the establishment of new franchises in Memphis and Birmingham and the relocation of its original U.S.-based team, the Sacramento Gold Miners, to San Antonio, all of the league's American clubs are now south of the Mason-Dixon line. Shreveport and Baltimore, both admitted to the league last year, are the other two. The CFL thought it would have six U.S.-based teams this season, but efforts to move the Las Vegas Posse to Jackson, Mississippi, failed.

And in an 11th-hour decision, the league suspended the Posse franchise for this season.

At first glance it would seem to be an odd combination: eight teams in the Great White North and five in the land of the mint julep. On second thought, though, there's a reasonable explanation. Basically, there were few major centers in the northern states bordering Canada into which the CFL could have readily expanded.

If cities didn't already have NFL teams, with whom the CFL did not want to clash head-to-head, they were considered too small even by CFL standards.

The south, on the other hand, had cities which, having been snubbed by the NFL, were ripe for an invasion. Baltimore was abandoned by the NFL in 1984 when Robert Irsay snuck his Colts out of town in the middle of the night and then ignored when the league expanded into Jacksonville and Charlotte. The city's football fans embraced the CFL. Owner Jim Speros craftily fanned the ire of fans towards the NFL by naming his club the Colts. And while he lost the right to continue using that nickname in a court action brought against him by the NFL, Speros has found a subtle way of maintaining the connection with that monicker. Officially, the club has no nickname. But the fans refer to their team as the Colts, and Speros doesn't discourage it. The stadium announcer, in

fact, calls out: "Here are your Baltimore ..." The fans, in unison, add: "Colts."

Both Birmingham and Memphis had sought an NFL franchise for years, but each time the league expanded they were overlooked. Enter the CFL, which despite its troubles keeping teams afloat in Canada, found no shortage of would-be owners south of the border. In Memphis, Federal Express founder and CEO Fred Smith plucked down \$3 million for the right to start up a team. On his heels came retired insurance magnate and one-time Atlanta high school football coach Art Williams, who gained the Birmingham franchise. Williams had been seeking a franchise for San Antonio, but unable to work out a suitable lease with the Alamodome, he opted to put a club in Birmingham.

Beleagued commissioner Larry Smith was chortling when he came out of the CFL's annual meeting in March. "I can't tell you how excited we are to have Art Williams and Fred Smith, because it takes the league up to a higher level."

But all was not rosy for the commissioner. While he was welcoming Birmingham and Memphis into the fraternity, Smith was crisscrossing the continent seeking to keep franchises alive in Hamilton and Ottawa, to find new owners for the Las Vegas franchise, and to help Sacramento owner Fred Anderson relocate to a more profitable locale.

The Las Vegas situation proved to be troublesome for Smith and one which, in the end, he could not solve. Ignoring urgings of

caution last year, Smith pushed for a franchise in America's gambling capital. Las Vegas proved once again that they weren't interested in pro sports, especially imported football played in an outdoor stadium when the thermometer consistently hovered near 100 degrees at game time. By midseason, the fan count had dwindled to embarrassingly low numbers.

There was early interest from a group with visions of moving the team into the L.A. Coliseum (yes, alongside the Raiders and UCLA), but that proposal fizzled. Smith thought he had two different groups of buyers interested in putting the team in Jackson. But in the end neither group would not or could not meet Smith's financial demands and he finally pulled the badge off the Posse in mid-April as the rest of the league waited impatiently for a schedule.

The Sacramento Gold Miners' move to the Alamodome in San Antonio came about in a much more orderly fashion after Anderson finally gave up on his hometown and its inadequate Hornet Field Stadium on the Cal State campus. Anderson attempted to stay close to home by seeking to move the team into the Oakland Coliseum. He even put in a bid to purchase baseball's Oakland A's. But when that attempt failed, he turned to San Antonio.

There was irony to the move. Two years earlier, San Antonio had been granted a CFL expansion franchise along with Sacramento. But two weeks after gaining entry, owner Larry Benson pulled out, leaving Anderson to go it alone as the league's first U.S.-based team. And to add to the irony, Anderson has changed the name of his team from the Gold Miners to the Texans, the name Benson had chosen for his team.

Thank heaven, though, that Anderson didn't borrow the nickname of San Antonio's previous pro football team—the World League's Riders. No CFL fan, north or south, could handle three teams with the same name.

The top five teams in the North and the top three in the South will make the playoffs. The fifth-place team in the North will move to the South for playoff purposes.

NORTHERN DIVISION



CALGARY STAMPEDERS

You wouldn't think a team which has been as awesome as the Stampeders over the past three years would be under the gun. But that's exactly the position which the Stamps, and in particular head coach Wally Buono and quarterback Doug Flutie, find themselves. For the Stamps, despite having a 15-3 record in each of the past two seasons, have bowed out both times in the Western final. The dynasty which owner Larry Ryckman envisioned for his club has not materialized. While Flutie signed a new four-year contract in the offseason and will become a part owner of the club after that, Buono's position isn't as solid. In fact, many feel that offensive coordinator John Hufnagel was promised by Ryckman that he'd be the team's next coach (with Buono moving upstairs) when he returned after failing to

get the head job with the Argonauts.

Despite their postseason stumbling, the Stamps are again the favorites to win the Cup. Free agency, however, has cost the team two of Flutie's starting receivers in Brian Wiggins (Texas Southern) and Will Moore (Texas Southern), who jumped to the NFL. Free agency also took Flutie's backup, Steve Taylor (Nebraska), to Hamilton, where he was followed by center Doug Davies. In addition, the Stamps were in danger of losing both starting cornerbacks. Douglass Craft (Southern) signed with Indianapolis and Junior Thurman (Southern Cal) was looking elsewhere.

The cupboard isn't exactly bare. Flutie still has Allen Pitts (Cal Fullerton), who set league records for catches (126), yards (2,036), and TD catches (21) in a season. And there's Canadian Dave Supunjis, the league's leading receiver in '93 who missed much of last season with a knee injury. Tony Stewart rushed for 1,120 yards and was second to Pitts in touchdowns (19, with 14 on the ground). Will Johnson (Northeast Louisiana), who led the league with 19 sacks, returns to head a defense which allowed a league-low 355 points. He's joined on the line by former Denver Bronco Kenny Walker (Nebraska) and veteran Canadian Stu Laird. The linebacking corps features Marvin Pope (Central State) and Alondra Johnson (West Texas State) and Canadian Matt Finlay (Eastern Michigan), who is heading into his 10th CFL season.

With Craft and possibly Thurman gone, the Stampeders have some rebuilding to do in the secondary. They found that free agency can be a two-way street as they picked up cornerback Kim Phillips (North Texas State) from Winnipeg and then added Alfred Jordan (UCLA) from Las Vegas. The Stamps also used free agency to obtain offensive guard Denny Chronopoulos (Purdue) from B.C.



TORONTO ARGONAUTS

Starting over again might well be the theme song for the Argos as they head into the '95 season with new colors, new logo, new head coach, and renewed optimism. After 119 years of wearing double blue—taken from England's Oxford and Cambridge Universities—the Argos opted for dark blue, slate green, and silver in an effort to capture the imagination of today's fashion-conscious youth. They also had the younger crowd in mind with their logo change. Gone is the sailing ship shaped like a football and bearing a large "A" on the sail. In its place is a helmeted warrior, taken from the myth of Jason and the Argonauts, holding a shield inscribed with a large "A."

The new look, however, won't help the crowd count at SkyDome, which averaged a paltry 16,700 in '94, unless the team shows continuing improvement over its 7-11 record. That task falls to new head coach Mike Faragalli, who takes over from Bob

O'Billovich, now solely the GM. Faragalli, the son of former Saskatchewan, Edmonton, and Montreal head coach Joe Faragalli, comes to Toronto after four years as the offensive coordinator at Bowling Green. While cynics have suggested O'Billovich chose the 36-year-old Faragalli over Calgary assistant John Hufnagel or Edmonton's Joe Paopao so he could control the coaching decision from the press box, Faragalli does own a solid CFL background. In five seasons as an assistant coach he went to three Grey Cup games and earned a championship ring with the 1986 Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

As part of their efforts to resell football to their fans, the Argos went after a prominent quarterback. They struck out on Matt Dunigan and Damon Allen, but finally came up with Kent Austin (Mississippi), whom the B.C. Lions had deemed expendable after deciding to go with Danny McManus. Austin is one of only three pro quarterbacks to throw for more than 6,000 yards in a season. He'll head the Argos offense, which GM Bob O'Billovich has named the "Bomb Squad." Sophomore Marvin Graves (Syracuse) is the backup with Robert Dougherty (Boston U.) and Shawn Knight (William & Mary) battling for the third spot.

Defensively, former Tampa Bay Buccaneer Calvin Tuggle (Georgia Tech) stepped in at middle linebacker and gained all-CFL honors after leading the league with 121 tackles. End Swift Birch (Temple) should be even better after a fine rookie season. The team took a step toward improving its secondary with the acquisition of Maurice Kelly (East Tennessee State) in the Las Vegas dispersal draft.



BRITISH COLUMBIA LIONS

After the Lions traded for quarterback Kent Austin prior to last season, there were those who felt the club had a shot at the Grey Cup. The prognosticators turned out to be correct. But it was backup Danny McManus (Florida State) who delivered the Lions' first championship in nine years, over the upstart Baltimore No-Names. Primarily a backup in his four previous seasons (three with Winnipeg), McManus was rewarded by being handed the No. 1 job in '95. Austin finally wound up in Toronto in exchange for wide receiver Bobby Gordon (Nebraska-Omaha) and defensive back Eddie Thomas (San Jose State). To back up McManus, the Lions signed free agent Keithen McCant (Nebraska) from Winnipeg.

Darren Flutie (Boston College), who stole the spotlight from his more illustrious brother, Doug, by catching the winning touchdown in the Western Conference final, heads the receiving corps. The other starters—Matt Clark (Montana), Mike Trevathan (Montana), and Ray Alexander (Florida A&M)—had played out their options but were expected to re-sign. Ditto for running back Cory Philpot, who got off to a brilliant start last season but then was

slowed by injuries before regaining his stride in time for the Grey Cup.

The Lions suffered some key losses on defense, where linebacker Angelo Snipes (West Georgia) jumped to the Memphis Mad Dogs, Less Browne retired, Barry Wilburn signed with the Philadelphia Eagles, and James Jefferson (Texas A&I) joined the Carolina Panthers. Free agent Daved Benefield (Northridge State) from Ottawa will step in for Snipes, but the Lions will be testing newcomers to fill the vacancies in the secondary.

Lui Passaglia, who provided the winning field goal in the Grey Cup, was expected back for his 20th season. If, at 40, he decides to hang it up, then Giulio Caravatta will handle the punting and place-kicking.

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS™

The short, and mostly sweet, Matt Dunigan era is over in Winnipeg. The 35-year-old quarterback moved on to his fifth CFL team in 13 seasons when he signed with the new Birmingham Barracudas after playing out his option. That has left GM and head coach Cal Murphy seeking to pick up the pieces with Warren Jones (Hawaii), who has spent most of his five seasons in the CFL as a backup, and son-in-law Sammy Garza (UTEP). Keithan McCant (Nebraska), who filled in last year when Dunigan and Garza were injured, also defected, signing with the B.C. Lions. In three seasons with Dunigan (Louisiana Tech) at the helm, the Bombers finished first each time, with an overall 38-16 record and made it to the Grey Cup game in 1992 and '93 before being edged out by Baltimore last fall.

It'll be more difficult for the Bombers this season. Besides Dunigan and McCant, they lost defensive back Bobby Evans (Southern Arkansas) to the Atlanta Falcons and defensive tackle Loyd Lewis (Texas A&I), a 10-year veteran, to a chronic neck injury. Running back Blaise Bryant (Iowa State) and receiver David Williams (Illinois) had become free agents, but the Bombers were hopeful of re-signing both.

Despite these losses, don't count out the ability of wily GM/head coach Cal Murphy to pull something out from his sleeve. Murphy got a bonus with the return of guard Fred Childress (Arkansas) and defensive back Anthony Shelton (Tennessee State), who were on loan to Shreveport last season, and then picked up homebrew slotback Ken Evraire from Hamilton and linebacker Doug Hocking, also a Canadian, from B.C., both as free agents. Murphy obtained former N.Y. Jets wide receiver Rob Carpenter (Syracuse), who'll step in if Williams doesn't return, and Tamarick Vanover (Florida State), who was a disappointment in Las Vegas. The acquisition of Evraire will allow for a possible move of slotback Gerald Alphin (Kansas State) to wide receiver and the use of an import offensive lineman in Childress. The offensive line, led by tackles Chris Walby and Miles Gorrell, returning for their 15th and 18th seasons, respectively, will be even stronger if Childress is added.



EDMONTON ESKIMOS

The Eskimos are going to get a complex. The CFL's model franchise when they were putting together an unprecedented string of five straight Grey Cup victories (1978-82), the Eskies have fallen from that pedestal. While Edmonton was THE team to play for in those glory years, the luster has apparently faded. A lot has to do with the fact that the Eskimos no longer fill their 60,000-seat Commonwealth Stadium. As a result, the club can no longer afford to pay the top dollars necessary to keep a player such as quarterback Damon Allen.

After just two years in Edmonton, Allen, who was seeking an increase over his \$400,000 salary, played out his option and signed with the expansion Memphis Mad Dogs, where he'll be joined by his No. 1 target in Edmonton, slotback Eddie Brown (Iowa State), and veteran cornerback Ed Berry (Utah State). Also leaving Edmonton via free agency was offensive lineman Mike Dumaresq, who signed with Toronto, while defensive backs Don Wilson (North Carolina State) and Damion Lyons (UCLA) were shopping their talents elsewhere, although either or both could still return.

The defense was a strength last year and will probably have to carry the club again. The decision by Canadian linebacker Leroy Blugh (Bishop's) not to jump to Birmingham was a plus. He'll be reunited with Willie Pless (Kansas) and Larry Wruck, another Canuck, to form the backbone of the unit. Bennie Goods (Alcorn State) and Tony Woods (Oklahoma) anchor the line.

Quarterback falls to Kerwin Bell (Florida), David Archer's backup for two years in Sacramento. Rickey Foggie (Minnesota) and Chris Vargas (Nevada) vie for reserve duty. The departure of Brown leaves the receiving corps without a deep threat. Jim Sandusky (San Diego State), 34 in September, is coming off a couple of injury-hampered seasons. Henry "Gizmo" Williams, 32, remains the league's most feared kick returner, but he's never been a consistent receiver. Running back Lucius Floyd (Nevada) could be the top target, which doesn't say much for the passing attack.



SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS

If there's ever a time when the Roughriders want to be battling for the Grey Cup, it's this year. You see, the city of Regina is hosting the championship game for the first—and possibly the only—time. Not that Regina won't put on a good show. Winnipeg proved in 1991, when it staged its only Grey Cup game, that a smaller center, where the temperature is sure to be frigid at the tail end of November, can put on a superb week of festivities and attract a packed house of well-bundled fans. But with rapid expansion into the U.S. and the

quest for greater television dollars, Regina isn't likely to see another Grey Cup game played at Taylor Field.

The Roughriders' chance of being participant/hosts at this year's game is a long-shot. After a respectable 11-7 season, they face '95 without all-star running back Mike Saunders (Iowa), who played out his option and signed with the Green Bay Packers. Quarterback Tom Burgess (Colgate) lost backup Warren Jones (Hawaii) to Winnipeg, leaving holdover Michael Payton (Marshall) in the relief role. Burgess has 1,000-yard receivers in Ray Elgaard, the league's all-time reception leader, and Donald Narcisse (Texas Southern). Larry Thompson (Solano JC) missed the 1,000-yard mark by 93, and Prince Wimbley (Alabama) had 49 catches for Las Vegas.

Defensively, the Riders will be solid despite the retirement of tackle Gary Lewis (Oklahoma State). Re-signing linebacker Ron Goetz (Minnesota) was a major accomplishment for GM Al Ford, who followed that up with the acquisition of free agent Canadian Glenn Kulka (Bakersfield) from Ottawa to replace Lewis and the re-signing of cornerback Albert Brown (Western Illinois), who had played out his option. Ford was unable to re-sign defensive back Anthony Drawhorn (UNLV), who jumped to Birmingham, but feels he has solid replacements in Dale Joseph (Howard Payne) and Terryl Ulmer (Southern Mississippi). Dave Ridgway, at 36, remains one of the league's premier place-kickers.



HAMILTON TIGER-CATS

If the 'Cats haven't used up most of their nine lives, they've got to be close to the limit. Mired in red ink, the Tiger-Cats were given an ultimatum by commissioner Larry Smith last November to sell 12,500 season tickets, gain \$1 million in corporate sponsorship, and obtain the city's commitment to upgrade Ivor Wynne Stadium as well as settle the muddled ownership situation. Their fans met the challenge to give the club another life and now it's up to the Ticats to produce on the field.

Don Sutherin, who had returned to his old team as an assistant coach last year, took over as GM and head coach late in the season after John Gregory was fired. One of his first moves in the offseason was to hire fellow Hall of Famer, ex-Ticat, Winnipeg Blue Bomber, and Los Angeles Rams quarterback Dieter Brock as an assistant coach, along with former Argo receiver Terry Greer. Then he set out to improve the quarterbacking. The Ticats were stung badly last season when they brought in former Phoenix Cardinal Timm Rosenbach to run their offense. But like other ex-NFLers who have attempted to make the switch to the CFL, Rosenbach was a flop. Sutherin was determined not to make a similar mistake. He turned to the Calgary Stampeders and plucked free agent Steve Taylor (Nebraska), who had languished as a backup to Doug Flutie for

four years and before that to Tracy Ham in Edmonton. Then he traded three starting defensive backs—Don Odegard (UNLV), Adrian Smith (SW Missouri State), and Gary Wilkerson (Penn State)—to Memphis for the No. 1 pick in the Las Vegas dispersal draft and selected quarterback Anthony Cavillo (Utah State). Mike Kerrigan (Northwestern) re-signed with the Ticats in May.

The Ticats had 18 players in their option years last season and two of the most costly departures were end Tim Cofield (Elizabeth City), the runner-up for Defensive Player of the Year honors, and running back Reggie Barnes. Cofield signed with Memphis and Barnes went to Toronto. Also seeking new pastures were linebacker Terry Wright (Temple) and receivers Lonzell Hill (Washington) and Cornell Burbage (Kentucky), all of whom signed with Memphis; linebacker John Motton (Akron), who opted for Birmingham; and slotback Ken Evraire, who joined Winnipeg.

Nine-year veteran Earl Winfield (North Carolina) showed last year he's still one of the league's top receivers as he caught 67 passes for 1,150 yards. He'll get help from Kelvin Means (Fresno State). The linebacking will be solid with Canadian Mike O'Shea flanked by Hassan Bailey (Kansas) and former NFLer Marcus Cotton (USC). Veteran Bobby Dawson (Illinois), if he returns, heads the secondary.



OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS

The league's most unenviable job this season must surely belong to new head coach Jim Gilstrap, who inherited the job after Adam Rita opted to leave for the new Memphis franchise as its offensive coordinator rather than wait around for the ownership situation to be resolved. When the Riders were finally brought back from the brink of extinction in mid-March, after Chicago sports entrepreneur Horn Chen bought the club, they had no GM, no player personnel director, no coaching staff, and had done no recruiting. On top of that, they lost offensive lineman Chris Gioskos and slotback Jock Climie to Toronto, nose tackle Glenn Kulka to Saskatchewan, linebacker Daved Benefield (Cal-Northridge) to B.C., and fullback Dean Noel to Hamilton, while cornerback Patrick Burke (Fresno State), a Canadian, signed with the Arizona Cardinals.

With tackles Mike Graybill (Boston U.) and Jim Mills (Hawaii) contemplating retirement, only center Irv Daymond is set to return from last year's offensive line. That may be one reason why quarterback Danny Barrett (Cincinnati) hasn't signed a new pact. Barrett, 33, may be looking to play out his option and finish his career elsewhere. At the same time, the Riders haven't exactly been banging down Barrett's door to get him to re-sign. As camp neared, they were close to signing former Denver Bronco backup Shawn Moore (Virginia), whom they were looking at as their quarterback of the future. With Don McPherson (Syracuse) retiring, Marquel Fleetwood

(Minnesota) has the inside track on the No. 3 job. The Riders are solid at running back, where former CFL Rookie of the Year and rushing leader Michael Richardson (Louisiana Tech) and Gerry Collins (Penn State) form a solid one-two punch. Michael Stephens (Nevada), picked up in the Vegas auction, will help the receiving unit.

The loss of Kulka, Benefield, and Burke punched holes in a porous defense. New director of football operations Garney Henley, the former Hamilton Tiger-Cat star and Hall of Famer, plugged the linebacking hole by convincing Ray Bernard, who had played out his option with Saskatchewan, to join the eastern Riders.

SOUTHERN DIVISION



BALTIMORE

They may not have an official nickname, but by any name the Baltimore Wannabe Colts provided the blueprint which should become the bible for every new U.S.-based CFL franchise. The Uncolts made it all the way to the championship game in their very first season and came within a disputed catch of, perhaps, becoming the first team outside Canada to win the Grey Cup. Baltimore's strategy was simple. Owner Jim Speros, who once had a brief tryout with the Montreal Alouettes, knew that the Canadian game was football with differences that had to be appreciated and addressed. He selected a coach, Don Matthews, who had extensive CFL experience; Matthews, in turn, brought in a corps of high-caliber veterans with plenty of know-how in the Canadian game.

Baltimore's strategy for this season seems to be if it's not broken, don't fix it. Only one player (backup quarterback John Congemi) won't be back from the 41 who made the trip to the Grey Cup game last November. Baltimore picked up Len Williams (Northwestern), who was the No. 2 pivot at Las Vegas but was cut for financial reasons just before the end of last season. He'll compete with holdover Shawn Jones (Georgia Tech) and Matt Rodgers (Iowa) for the spots behind starter Tracy Ham (Georgia Southern). Ham, who had been written off in Toronto, regained his touch last season as he threw for 4,348 yards. But he made a crucial fumble within an arm's length of the goal line in the Grey Cup, and that's a memory that he'd like to erase this season. Robert Drummond (Syracuse) will move from being a backup to running back Mike Pringle (Cal Fullerton), the league's leading rusher, to a starting slotback. That's forced Shawn Beals (Idaho State) to battle for a job at wide receiver with Robert Clark (North Carolina Central) and Shannon Culver (Oklahoma State). The popular but erratic Donald Igwebuike (Clemson) could be on the way out as the place-kicker after the team picked up Carlos Huerta (Miami) in the Las Vegas auction.

The defense, which gave up just 431 points last fall (best in the East), should be even stingier now. Linebacker Matt Goodwin, the league's top rookie, leads the way,

supported by the likes of O.J. Brigance (Rice), Jearld Baylis (Southern Mississippi), Elfrid Payton (Grambling), and Tracey Gravely (Concord).



SHREVEPORT PIRATES

What's this? The Gliebermans heading into a new season without controversy swirling around the team? For the first time since shortly after they landed on the CFL scene in Ottawa in the fall of 1992, Detroit real estate developer Bernie Gliebberman and son, Lonie, aren't facing criticism or ridicule for their handling of their team. There's no Dexter Manley, no controversial firings or coaching appointments, no outlandish outbursts. In a word: boring.

But that's exactly the way the man in charge of the on-field product, NFL Hall of Famer Forrest Gregg, likes it. The fiery Gregg, who had a one-year fling in the CFL as coach of the 1979 Toronto Argonauts, took over the team before the start of last season when John Huard was fired midway through training camp. Without the opportunity to be involved in the preseason recruiting, Gregg had little to work with and spent much of the season trying to upgrade the talent. By season's end, despite their 3-15 record, the Pirates were much improved. The prime example was the offensive line, an almost entirely different unit from the one which started on opening day. The defensive line improved immensely with the addition of Reggie Rogers (Washington) from Hamilton.

One position where the team suffered was quarterback, but the Pirates feel that's been corrected with the offseason signing of former Atlanta Falcon and Houston Oiler Billy Joe Tolliver. He'll be backed up by holdover Mike Johnson (Akron) and rookie Robert Cobb. Tolliver will have a pair of the best targets in Rod Harris (Texas A&M) and Curtis Mayfield (Oklahoma State). In two seasons with Sacramento, Harris topped 1,200 yards in receptions both times. Mayfield, picked up in the Posse disposal draft, went over the 1,200-yard mark in his only CFL season. Tolliver will see a familiar face in George Thomas (UNLV), who spent several years in Atlanta.

The Pirates were forced to return offensive lineman Fred Childress, who was on loan from Winnipeg, to the Bombers; replacing him will be a major task for Gregg. They also lost defensive back Joe Mero (LSU) to the Bombers as a free agent.



MEMPHIS MAD DOGS

The Mad Dogs made the right move when they hired Adam Rita as their offensive coordinator and Greg Mohns as the personnel director. The two gave the Dogs the insight into the CFL, especially in the formative weeks, which head coach and

general partner Pepper Rodgers lacked. Anyone who followed Baltimore's success last year knows the value of CFL experience in putting together an immediate winner.

The Dogs sought to complement Rita's signing by acquiring veteran Winnipeg quarterback Matt Dunigan, who had become a free agent. The two had combined to bring a Grey Cup to Toronto in 1991. Memphis GM Steve Erhardt, however, declined to meet the demands of the 35-year-old QB and Dunigan ended up in Birmingham. The Dogs then outbid Toronto for Damon Allen (Cal-Fullerton). A free agent, Allen also worked under Rita in Edmonton in 1993 and he took the Eskimos to a surprise Grey Cup victory in which he was named the game's MVP. Allen struggled last year after Rita moved on to Ottawa as head coach. The Mad Dogs feel that Rita will get Allen back on course. The Dogs also acquired Allen's former pitch-and-catch partner, slotback Eddie Brown (Iowa State), and are hoping that the reunion will produce the same sort of numbers (27 TDs) that the pair put up in two seasons in Edmonton.

The Mad Dogs put a lot of effort into building an experienced defense. They started with two of the best when they enticed free agent end Tim Cofield (Elizabeth City State) away from Hamilton and Rodney Harding (Oklahoma State) from Toronto. The two were tied for second in quarterback sacks last season (16) and Cofield was named the East's top defensive player. The Mad Dogs signed Hamilton linebacker Terry Wright (Temple) as a free agent and cornerback Ed Berry (Utah State) from Edmonton. Then they started the Las Vegas Posse dispersal draft, where they had the No. 1 pick, by trading that choice to Hamilton for three experienced defensive backs: Gary Wilkerson (Penn State), Don Odegard (UNLV), and Adrien Smith (SW Missouri State).

SAN ANTONIO TEXANS

Owner Fred Anderson couldn't strike the mother lode in his hometown of Sacramento with the Gold Miners. So he pulled up stakes and headed for San Antonio, where he's changed the team's nickname to the more appropriate Texans and is looking to recoup some of the \$10 million he spent trying to make a go of it in Sacramento.

Anderson retained Kay Stephenson as coach and re-signed quarterback David Archer, but the Texans lost some key players: running back Troy Mills (Sacramento State) to the San Francisco 49ers, middle linebacker Maurice Miller (Wake Forest) to the Atlanta Falcons, offensive guard David Diaz-Infante (San Jose State) to the Denver Broncos, and cornerback Junior Robinson (East Carolina) to the Carolina Panthers. Other CFL clubs, particularly Birmingham, zeroed in on the Texans' free agents. Left tackle Chris Dyko and defensive tackle Mark Ledbetter (both from Washington State) jumped to the Barracudas, while backup quarterback Kerwin Bell (Florida) signed with Edmonton and slotback Rod Harris (Texas A&M) with Shreveport.

Still, the Texans won't be without a solid nucleus of veterans who, after two seasons, are settling into the CFL game. Despite losing Ledbetter, the defensive line remains solid with tackles George Bethune (Alabama) and Willie Fears (Northwestern State) and ends James King (Texas A&I) and Curtis Moore (Kansas)—if Moore doesn't retire. Defensive backs Malcolm Frank (Baylor), Tom Gerhart (Ohio), and Bobby Humphery (New Mexico State) return.

To make up for the loss of Harris, the Texans signed receivers Mark Stock, who spent the last three seasons with the Washington Redskins, and Kirtick Taylor, who has played for the Los Angeles Rams and the Cleveland Browns. Also returning are James Pruitt (Cal Fullerton), Wayne Hawkins (SW Minnesota), and Myron Wise (Palomar JC). Roman Anderson (Houston) provides solid place-kicking, and if Peter Gardere doesn't find work in the NFL, he'll be back to do the punting.



Owner Art Williams allowed that Birmingham is 200 miles from the ocean and he chose the nickname Barracudas not for geographical correctness but because of the fish's reputation for ferocity. "It's an animal [sic] that's vicious and mean," he said, suggesting that's how he expects his new team to perform. In keeping with the marine motif, the team's colors will be similar to those of hockey's popular San Jose Sharks: blue, teal, black, and white.

Williams, a retired real estate magnate, was originally seeking to put a team in San Antonio. But when he was unable to obtain a suitable lease at the Alamodome, he turned his sights on Birmingham. Williams gave the franchise immediate credibility in the city when he hired former Houston Oilers head coach Jack Pardee to be his field boss. He then scored a major coup by signing quarterback Matt Dunigan (Louisiana Tech), who was being wooed by Memphis, Toronto, and Shreveport after he had played out his option with Winnipeg.

While Dunigan's gung-ho style has led to a series of injuries, the Barracudas felt he would give the team the field leadership they'd need in their first season and rewarded him with the league's highest salary (\$800,000) for three years. If he stays healthy, Dunigan can make Birmingham a legitimate contender in its first season. To back him up, Birmingham signed Reggie Slack (Auburn), gimpy knee and all. And to add some local flavoring, as well, the 'Cudas signed former Alabama quarterback Danny Woodson.

Defensively, Birmingham landed linebacker Angelo Snipes (West Georgia) and back Anthony Drawhorn (UNLV), both CFL all-stars, and added Las Vegas linebacker Shonte Peoples (Michigan). It lured former Calgary personnel director Roy Shivers, hoping he'd be able to attract several of the Stampede's to Alabama. The Stamps' free agents, however, wound up elsewhere.

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NFC STATISTICS

RECORDS

Points: 176, Paul Hornung, Green Bay (1960)
Touchdowns: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)
Field Goals: 35, Ali Haji-Sheikh, New York (1983)
Extra Points: 62, Mark Moseley, Washington (1983)

SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	2PT	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
49ers	66	23	37	6	60	62	4	15	20	0	509
Cowboys	50	26	19	5	48	48	0	22	29	0	414
Packers	47	11	33	3	41	44	2	19	26	0	384
Vikings	36	11	18	7	30	30	8	34	39	0	364
Lions	43	12	24	7	39	40	4	18	27	1	361
Saints	38	11	22	5	32	32	4	28	39	0	352
Redskins	37	5	25	7	30	32	6	20	28	1	326
Falcons	36	8	25	3	32	32	6	21	25	0	323
Eagles	35	14	18	3	33	33	0	21	25	1	308
L.A. Rams	33	6	23	4	28	28	4	18	23	1	290
N.Y. Giants	30	12	16	2	27	28	2	22	28	2	281
Bears	30	10	19	1	24	24	4	21	29	0	275
Buccaneers	26	8	17	1	20	20	6	23	35	0	257
Cardinals	24	12	11	1	21	21	2	22	30	1	237

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Revez, Fuad, Minn.	30	30	34	39	132
Andersen, Morten, N.O.	32	32	28	39	116
Bonioli, Chris, Dall.	48	48	22	29	114
Brien, Doug, S.F.	60	62	15	20	105
Jacke, Chris, G.B.	41	43	19	26	98
Murray, Eddie, Phil.	33	33	21	25	96
Johnson, Norm, Atl.	32	32	21	25	95
Hanson, Jason, Det.	39	40	18	27	93
Lohmiller, Chip, Wash.	30	32	20	28	90
Husted, Michael, T.B.	20	20	23	35	89
Butler, Kevin, Chi.	24	24	21	29	87
Zendejas, Tony, Rams	28	28	18	23	82
Davis, Greg, Ari.	17	17	20	26	77
Treadwell, David, Giants	22	23	11	17	55
Daluisio, Brad, Giants	5	5	11	11	38
Peterson, Todd, Ari.	4	4	2	4	10

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	22	21	1	0	132
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	18	0	18	0	108
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	15	2	13	0	94
Mathis, Terance, Atl.	11	0	11	0	74
Moore, Herman, Det.	11	0	11	0	66
Walters, Ricky, S.F.	11	6	5	0	66
Jones, Brent, S.F.	9	0	9	0	58
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	9	5	4	0	54
Allen, Terry, Minn.	8	8	0	0	52
Rison, Andre, Atl.	8	0	8	0	52
Carter, Cris, Minn.	7	0	7	0	50
Harper, Alvin, Dall.	8	0	8	0	48
Heyward, Craig, Atl.	8	7	1	0	48
Sanders, Barry, Det.	8	7	1	0	48
Walker, Herschel, Phil.	8	5	2	1	48

Rhett, Errict, T.B.	7	7	0	0	46
Centers, Larry, Ari.	7	5	2	0	42
Tillman, Lewis, Chi.	7	7	0	0	42
Young, Steve, S.F.	7	7	0	0	42
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	6	6	0	0	40
Bates, Mario, N.O.	6	6	0	0	36
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	6	0	4	2	36
Drayton, Troy, Rams	6	0	6	0	36
Ellard, Henry, Wash.	6	0	6	0	36
Floyd, William, S.F.	6	6	0	0	36
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	6	0	6	0	36
Meggett, David, Giants	6	4	0	2	36
Sherrard, Mike, Giants	6	0	6	0	36
Wilson, Charles, T.B.	6	0	6	0	36
Graham, Jeff, Chi.	5	0	4	1	34
Howard, Desmond, Wash.	5	0	5	0	34
Moore, Ron, Ari.	5	4	1	0	34
Small, Torrance, N.O.	5	0	5	0	34
Bettis, Jerome, Rams	4	3	1	0	32
Perriman, Brett, Det.	4	0	4	0	32
Anderson, Willie, Rams	5	0	5	0	30
Barnett, Fred, Phil.	5	0	5	0	30
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B.	5	0	5	0	30
Haynes, Michael, N.O.	5	0	5	0	30
Ismail, Qadry, Minn.	5	0	5	0	30
Proehl, Ricky, Ari.	5	0	5	0	30
Taylor, John, S.F.	5	0	5	0	30
Walls, Wesley, N.O.	4	0	4	0	28
Brown, Derek, N.O.	4	3	1	0	24
Cobb, Reggie, G.B.	4	3	1	0	24
Cross, Howard, Giants	4	0	4	0	24
Early, Quinn, N.O.	4	0	4	0	24
Emanuel, Bert, Atl.	4	0	4	0	24
Ervin, Ricky, Wash.	4	3	1	0	24
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	4	0	0	4	24
Jenkins, James, Wash.	4	0	4	0	24
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	4	2	2	0	24
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	4	1	3	0	24
Moore, Derrick, Det.	4	4	0	0	24
Morgan, Anthony, G.B.	4	0	4	0	24

Pierce, Aaron, Giants	4	0	4	0	24
Reed, Jake, Minn.	4	0	4	0	24
Harris, Jackie, T.B.	3	0	3	0	22
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	3	0	1	2	22
Bavaro, Mark, Phil.	3	0	3	0	18
Bruce, Isaac, Rams	3	0	3	0	18
Carter, Anthony, Det.	3	0	3	0	18
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	3	3	0	0	18
Garner, Charlie, Phil.	3	3	0	0	18
Gedney, Chris, Chi.	3	0	3	0	18
Gray, Mel, Det.	3	0	0	3	18
Hester, Jessie, Rams	3	0	3	0	18
Horton, Ethan, Wash.	3	0	3	0	18
Jennings, Keith, Chi.	3	0	3	0	18
Joseph, James, Phil.	3	1	2	0	18
Matthews, Aubrey, Det.	3	0	3	0	18
Parker, Anthony, Minn.	3	0	0	3	18
Sanders, Deion, S.F.	3	0	0	3	18
Smith, Irv, N.O.	3	0	3	0	18
Washington, Dewayne, Minn.	3	0	0	3	18
Williams, Calvin, Phil.	3	0	3	0	18
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	2	0	2	0	16
West, Ed, G.B.	2	0	2	0	16
Winans, Tydus, Wash.	2	0	2	0	16
Brooks, Reggie, Wash.	2	2	0	0	12
Brown, Dave, Giants	2	2	0	0	12
Caloway, Chris, Giants	2	0	2	0	12
Collins, Andre, Wash.	2	0	0	2	12
Favre, Brett, G.B.	2	2	0	0	12
Graham, Scottie, Minn.	2	2	0	0	12
Green, Robert, Chi.	2	0	2	0	12
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil.	2	2	0	0	12
Johnson, Maurice, Phil.	2	0	2	0	12
Lee, Amp, Minn.	2	0	2	0	12
Logan, Marc, S.F.	2	1	1	0	12
McCaffrey, Ed, S.F.	2	0	2	0	12
McDonald, Tim, S.F.	2	0	0	2	12
Morton, Johnnie, Det.	2	0	1	1	12
Novacek, Jay, Dall.	2	0	2	0	12
Singleton, Nate, S.F.	2	0	2	0	12
Thomas, Blair, N.E.-Dall.	2	2	0	0	12
Williams, Kevin, Dall.	2	0	0	2	12
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	1	1	0	0	6
Armstrong, Tyji, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Bailey, Johnny, Rams	1	1	0	0	6
Bailey, Robert, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
Bailey, Victor, Phil.	1	0	1	0	6
Bayless, Martin, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Beuerlein, Steve, Ari.	1	1	0	0	6
Brunell, Mark, G.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	1	0	0	1	6
Chandler, Chris, Rams	1	1	0	0	6
Clark, Gary, Ari.	1	0	1	0	6
Clay, Willie, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
Coleman, Lincoln, Dall.	1	1	0	0	6
Conover, Scott, Det.	1	0	1	0	6
Cook, Marv, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
Dawsey, Lawrence, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
Erickson, Craig, T.B.	1	1	0	0	6
Green, Darrell, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Griffith, Howard, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
Harris, James, Minn.	1	0	0	1	6
Harris, Raymond, Chi.	1	1	0	0	6
Hearst, Garrison, Ari.	1	1	0	0	6
Jack, Eric, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Jackson, Greg, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6

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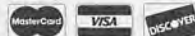


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Johnson, Mike, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
Lewis, Nate, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
Lyght, Todd, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
McCants, Keith, Hou-Ari.	1	0	0	1	6
McDowell, Anthony, T.B.	1	0	1	0	6
McMurtry, Greg, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
Mitchell, Scott, Det.	1	1	0	0	6
Morrison, Darryl, Wash.	1	0	0	1	6
Muster, Brad, N.O.	1	1	0	0	6
Neal, Lorenzo, N.O.	1	1	0	0	6
Newman, Anthony, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
Paup, Bryce, G.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Pegram, Eric, Atl.	1	1	0	0	6
Reeves, Bryan, Ari.	1	0	1	0	6
Ross, Jermaine, Rams	1	0	1	0	6
Sanders, Ricky, Atl.	1	0	1	0	6
Smith, Cedric, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Smith, Chuck, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Smith, Darrin, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Smith, Robert, Minn.	1	1	0	0	6
Spielman, Chris, Det.	1	0	0	1	6
Tolbert, Tony, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Truitt, Olanda, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Turner, Vernon, T.B.	1	0	0	1	6
Waddle, Tom, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
Walker, Adam, S.F.	1	1	0	0	6
Walker, Darnell, Atl.	1	0	0	1	6
Walsh, Steve, Chi.	1	1	0	0	6
Ware, Derek, Ari.	1	0	1	0	6
Wetnight, Ryan, Chi.	1	0	1	0	6
Williams, James, N.O.	1	0	0	1	6
Woodson, Darren, Dall.	1	0	0	1	6
Worley, Tim, Chi.	1	1	0	0	6
Wright, Toby, Rams	1	0	0	1	6
Wycheck, Frank, Wash.	1	0	1	0	6
Zordich, Michael, Phil.	1	0	0	1	6
Copeland, Horace, T.B.	0	0	0	0	4
Jordan, Andrew, Minn.	0	0	0	0	4
Armstead, Jesse, Giants	0	0	0	0	*2
Fuller, William, Phil.	0	0	0	0	*2
Gilbert, Sean, Rams	0	0	0	0	*2
Swann, Eric, Ari.	0	0	0	0	*2

* Safety

Team safeties: Lions, N.Y. Giants, Redskins

RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 407, James Wilder, Tampa Bay (1984)

Yards: 2,105, Eric Dickerson, Los Angeles (1984)

TDs: 24, John Riggins, Washington (1983)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Sanders, Barry, Det.	331	1883	5.7	85	7
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	368	1484	4.0	46	21
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	327	1075	3.3	127	6
Allen, Terry, Minn.	255	1031	4.0	45	8
Bettis, Jerome, Rams	319	1025	3.2	19	3
Rhett, Erict, T.B.	284	1011	3.6	27	7
Tillman, Lewis, Chi.	275	899	3.3	125	7
Walters, Ricky, S.F.	239	877	3.7	23	6
Moore, Ron, Ari.	232	780	3.4	24	4
Heyward, Craig, Atl.	183	779	4.3	17	7
Ervin, Ricky, Wash.	185	650	3.5	49	3
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	178	623	3.5	39	5
Cobb, Reggie, G.B.	153	579	3.8	30	3
Bates, Mario, N.O.	151	579	3.8	40	6
Walker, Herschel, Phil.	113	528	4.7	191	5
Brown, Derek, N.O.	146	489	3.3	16	3
Harris, Raymond, Chi.	123	464	3.8	13	1
Garner, Charlie, Phil.	109	399	3.7	128	3
Pegram, Eric, Atl.	103	358	3.5	25	1
Centers, Larry, Ari.	115	336	2.9	17	5
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil.	82	325	4.0	19	2
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	78	311	4.0	33	0
Floyd, William, S.F.	87	305	3.5	26	6
Meggett, David, Giants	91	298	3.3	126	4
Brooks, Reggie, Wash.	100	297	3.0	15	2
Young, Steve, S.F.	58	293	5.1	27	7
Workman, Vince, T.B.	79	291	3.7	18	0
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	65	288	4.4	22	3
Graham, Scottie, Minn.	64	207	3.2	11	2
Joseph, James, Phil.	60	203	3.4	134	1
Favre, Brett, G.B.	42	202	4.8	136	2
Brown, Dave, Giants	60	196	3.3	21	2
Higgs, Mark, Mia-Ari.	62	195	3.1	21	0

PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 371, Warren Moon, Minnesota (1994)

Touchdowns: 36, Y.A. Tittle, New York (1963)

Yards: 4,614, Neil Lomax, St. Louis (1984)

Longest for TD: 99 yards, Frankie Filchock to Andy Farkas, Washington (1939)

99 yards, George Izo to Bobby Mitchell, Washington (1963)

99 yards, Karl Sweetan to Pat Studstill, Detroit (1966)

99 yards, Sonny Jurgensen to Jerry Allen, Washington (1968)

99 yards, Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia (1985)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT	TD	LONG	INT	PCT	INT	SACK	YDS	LOST	RATING
Young, Steve, S.F.	461	324	70.3	3969	8.61	35	7.6	169	10	2.2	31	163	112.8			
Krieg, Dave, Det.	212	131	61.8	1629	7.68	14	6.6	151	3	1.4	14	100	101.7			
Favre, Brett, G.B.	582	363	62.4	3882	6.67	33	5.7	49	14	2.4	31	188	90.7			
Everett, Jim, N.O.	540	346	64.1	3855	7.14	22	4.1	178	18	3.3	21	164	84.9			
Aikman, Troy, Dall.	361	233	64.5	2676	7.41	13	3.6	90	12	3.3	14	59	84.9			
George, Jeff, Atl.	524	322	61.5	3734	7.13	23	4.4	185	18	3.4	32	206	83.3			
Erickson, Craig, T.B.	399	225	56.4	2919	7.32	16	4.0	171	10	2.5	22	129	82.5			
Moon, Warren, Minn.	601	371	61.7	4264	7.09	18	3.0	165	19	3.2	29	235	79.9			
Walsh, Steve, Chi.	343	208	60.6	2078	6.06	10	2.9	50	8	2.3	11	52	77.9			
Cunningham, Randall, Phil.	490	265	54.1	3229	6.59	16	3.3	93	13	2.7	43	333	74.4			
Miller, Chris, Rams	317	173	54.6	2104	6.64	16	5.0	54	14	4.4	28	193	73.6			
Brown, Dave, Giants	350	201	57.4	2536	7.25	12	3.4	53	16	4.6	42	248	72.5			
Schroeder, Jay, Ari.	238	133	55.9	1510	6.34	4	1.7	148	7	2.9	11	85	68.4			
Mitchell, Scott, Det.	246	119	48.4	1456	5.92	10	4.1	34	11	4.5	12	63	62.0			
Beuerlein, Steve, Ari.	255	130	51.0	1545	6.06	5	2.0	63	9	3.5	20	129	61.6			
Shuler, Heath, Wash.	265	120	45.3	1658	6.26	10	3.8	181	12	4.5	12	83	59.6			

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)

Peete, Rodney, Dall.	56	33	58.9	470	8.39	4	7.1	165	1	1.8	4	21	102.5
Grbac, Elvis, S.F.	50	35	70.0	393	7.86	2	4.0	42	1	2.0	4	36	98.2
Garrett, Jason, Dall.	31	16	51.6	315	10.16	2	6.5	68	1	3.2	2	13	95.5
Chandler, Chris, Rams	176	108	61.4	1352	7.68	7	4.0	172	2	1.1	7	46	93.8
Brister, Bubby, Phil.	76	51	67.1	507	6.67	2	2.6	53	1	1.3	5	39	89.1
Wilson, Wade, N.O.	28	20	71.4	172	6.14	0	0.0	16	0	0.0	3	17	87.2
Kramer, Erik, Chi.	158	99	62.7	1129	7.15	8	5.1	185	8	5.1	14	87	79.9
Friesz, John, Wash.	180	105	58.3	1266	7.03	10	5.6	173	9	5.0	6	45	77.7
Johnson, Brad, Minn.	37	22	59.5	150	4.05	0	0.0	15	0	0.0	1	5	68.5
Graham, Kent, Giants	53	24	45.3	295	5.57	3	5.7	55	2	3.8	2	22	66.2
Frerotte, Gus, Wash.	100	46	46.0	600	6.00	5	5.0	51	5	5.0	3	18	61.3
Brunell, Mark, G.B.	27	12	44.4	95	3.52	0	0.0	25	0	0.0	2	16	53.8
Hebert, Bobby, Atl.	103	52	50.5	610	5.92	2	1.9	40	6	5.8	3	17	51.0
Salisbury, Sean, Minn.	34	16	47.1	156	4.59	0	0.0	38	1	2.9	1	6	48.2
McMahon, Jim, Ari.	43	23	53.5	219	5.09	1	2.3	33	3	7.0	3	23	46.6
Maddox, Tommy, Rams	19	10	52.6	141	7.42	0	0.0	39	2	10.5	0	0	37.3
Diller, Trent, T.B.	82	38	46.3	433	5.28	1	1.2	42	6	7.3	8	42	36.3

PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 114, Bob Parsons, Chicago (1981)

Average: 51.4 yards, Sammy Baugh, Washington (1940)

Longest: 94 yards, Joe Lintzenich, Chicago (1931)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP	RET	RET YDS	IN 20	NET AVG
Landeta, Sean, Rams	78	3494	62	44.8	9	0	47	637	23	34.3	
Roby, Reggie, Wash	82	3639	65	44.4	12	0	45	441	21	36.1	
Montgomery, Greg, Del	63	2782	64	44.2	8	1	36	431	19	34.2	
Barnhardt, Tommy, N.O.	67	2920	57	43.6	9	0	40	495	14	33.5	
Saxon, Mike, Minn	77	3301	67	42.9	5	0	44	410	28	36.2	
Jett, John, Dall.	70	2935	58	41.9	4	0	36	378	27	35.4	
Horan, Mike, Giants	85	3521	63	41.4	7	2	39	307	25	35.3	
Wilmsmeyer, Klaus, S.F.	54	2235	60	41.4	3	0	28	242	18	35.8	
Hentrich, Craig, G.B.	81	3351	70	41.4	10	0	36	272	24	35.5	
Barker, Bryan, Phil.	66	2696	67	40.8	7	0	37	158	20	36.3	
Feagles, Jeff, Ari.	98	3997	54	40.8	10	0	40	270	33	36.0	
Alexander, Harold, Atl	71	2836	61	39.9	6	0	27	242	12	34.8	
Stryzinski, Dan, T.B.	72	2800	53	38.9	6	0	18	94	20	35.9	
Gardocki, Chris, Chi.	76	2871	57	37.8	9	0	26	225	23	32.4	

NON-QUALIFIERS

Berger, Mitch, Phil.	25	951	57	38.0	2	0	10	128	8	31.3
Tyner, Scott, Atl.	8	285	46	35.6	0	0	4	31	2	31.8

Coleman, Lincoln, Dall.	64	180	2.8	13	1	Loville, Derek, S.F.	31	99	3.2	13	0
Hearst, Garrison, Ari.	37	169	4.6	36	1	Johnson, LeShon, G.B.	26	99	3.8	43	0
Logan, Marc, S.F.	33	143	4.3	22	1	Rice, Jerry, S.F.	7	93	13.3	128	2
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	40	138	3.5	19	2	Neal, Lorenzo, N.O.	30	90	3.0	12	1
Thomas, Blair, N.E.-Dall.	43	137	3.2	13	2	Perriman, Brett, Det.	9	86	9.6	25	0
Green, Robert, Chi.	25	122	4.9	14	0	Calloway, Chris, Giants	8	77	9.6	20	0
Smith, Robert, Minn.	31	106	3.4	114	1	Erickson, Craig, T.B.	26	68	2.6	17	1
Lee, Amp, Minn.	29	104	3.6	16	0	George, Jeff, Atl.	30	66	2.2	10	0
Shuler, Heath, Wash.	26	103	4.0	26	0	Aikman, Troy, Dall.	30	62	2.1	13	1
Miller, Chris, Rams	20	100	5.0	16	0	Chandler, Chris, Rams	18	61	3.4	22	1

NFC statistics

Schroeder, Jay, Ari	16	59	3.7	16	0
McDowell, Anthony, T.B.	21	58	2.8	8	0
Moon, Warren, Minn	27	55	2.0	12	0
Walker, Adam, S.F.	13	54	4.2	14	1
Moore, Derrick, Det	27	52	1.9	12	4
Downs, Gary, Giants	15	51	3.4	8	0
Smith, Cedric, Wash	10	48	4.8	13	0
Rasheed, Kenyon, Giants	17	44	2.6	6	0
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	9	44	4.0	14	1
Hebert, Bobby, Atl	9	43	4.8	20	0
Haynes, Michael, N.O.	4	43	10.8	15	0
Beuerlein, Steve, Ari	22	39	1.8	19	1
Ned, Derrick, N.O.	11	36	3.3	15	0
Krieg, Dave, Det	23	35	1.5	15	0
Everett, Jim, N.O.	15	35	2.3	14	0
Bailey, Johnny, Rams	11	35	3.2	9	1
Lang, David, Rams	6	34	5.7	17	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	8	34	4.3	18	0
McMahon, Jim, Ari	6	32	5.3	17	0
Conway, Curtis, Chi	6	31	5.2	12	0
Griffith, Howard, Rams	9	30	3.3	7	0
Christian, Bob, Chi	7	29	4.7	9	0
Hester, Jessie, Rams	2	28	14.0	24	0
Differ, Trent, T.B.	2	27	13.5	15	0
Mitchell, Scott, Det	15	24	1.0	1	1
Hoge, Merrill, Chi	6	24	4.0	8	0
Barnhardt, Tommy, N.O.	1	21	21.0	21	0
Williams, Kevin, Dall	20	3.3	8	0	0
Evans, Charles, Minn	6	20	3.3	8	0
Worley, Tim, Chi	9	17	1.9	4	1
Wilson, Wade, N.O.	7	15	2.1	9	0
Wilson, Charles, T.B.	2	15	7.5	11	0
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	3	15	5.0	8	0
Levy, Charles, Ari	3	15	5.0	22	0
Levens, Dorsey, G.B.	3	15	3.0	0	0
Lester, Tim, Rams	7	14	2.0	8	0
Turner, Vernon, T.B.	4	13	3.3	9	0
Williams, Calvin, Phil	2	11	5.5	0	0
Graham, Kent, Giants	2	11	5.5	9	0
Anderson, Willie, Rams	1	11	11.0	11	0
Early, Quinn, N.O.	2	10	5.0	8	0
Dunbar, Vaughn, N.O.	3	9	3.0	3	0
Marshall, Arthur, Giants	2	8	4.0	6	0
Feagles, Jeff, Ari	2	8	4.0	12	0
Royster, Mazio, T.B.	9	7	0.8	6	0
Brunell, Mark, G.B.	6	7	1.2	15	1
Brister, Bubby, Phil	1	7	7.0	7	0
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	2	6	3.0	3	0
Winans, Tydus, Wash	1	5	5.0	5	0
Jordan, Charles, G.B.	1	5	5.0	5	0
Walsh, Steve, Chi	30	4	0.1	12	1
Howard, Desmond, Wash	1	4	4.0	4	0
Emanuel, Bert, Atl	2	4	2.0	2	0
Elias, Keith, Giants	2	4	2.0	3	0
Drayton, Troy, Rams	1	4	4.0	4	0
Agee, Tommie, Dall	5	4	0.8	3	0
Muster, Brad, N.O.	1	3	3.0	13	1
Salisbury, Sean, Minn	3	2	0.7	5	0
Bruce, Isaac, Rams	2	2	2.0	2	0
Samuels, Terry, Ari	1	1	1.0	1	0
Palmer, David, Minn	1	1	1.0	1	0
Maddox, Tommy, Rams	1	1	1.0	1	0
Grbac, Elvis, S.F.	13	1	0.1	6	0
Friesz, John, Wash	1	1	1.0	0	0
Ferrotte, Gus, Wash	4	1	0.3	2	0

PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 70, Danny Reece, Tampa Bay (1979)
Yards: 646, Eddie Brown, Washington (1976)
Longest for TD: 103 yards, Robert Bailey, LA (1994)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Mitchell, Brian, Wash	32	24	452	14.1	178	2
Meggett, David, Giants	26	14	323	12.4	168	2
Gray, Mel, Det	21	12	233	11.1	24	0
Turner, Vernon, T.B.	21	4	218	10.4	180	1
Sydney, Jeff, Phil	40	17	381	9.5	49	0
Williams, Kevin, Dall	39	13	349	8.9	183	1
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	40	13	352	8.8	185	1
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	38	12	321	8.4	26	0
Robinson, Patrick, Ari	41	12	285	7.0	23	0
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	21	8	143	6.8	35	0
Palmer, David, Minn	30	9	193	6.4	20	0
Verdin, Clarence, Atl	23	13	113	4.9	29	0

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PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 122, **Cris Carter, Minnesota (1994)**

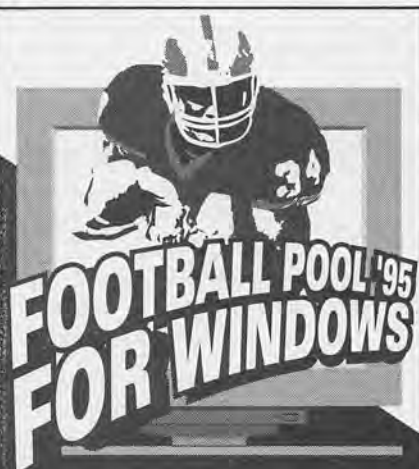
Yards: 1,570, **Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1986)**

TDs: 22, **Jerry Rice, San Francisco (1987)**

9 OR MORE	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Carter, Cris, Minn.	122	1256	10.3	165	7
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	112	1499	13.4	169	13
Mathis, Terance, Atl.	111	1342	12.1	81	11
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	94	1119	11.9	49	18
Reed, Jake, Minn.	85	1175	13.8	59	4
Early, Quinn, N.O.	82	894	10.9	33	4
Rison, Andre, Atl.	81	1088	13.4	169	8
Irvin, Michael, Dall.	79	1241	15.7	165	6
Barnett, Fred, Phil.	78	1127	14.4	54	5
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	78	546	7.0	40	4
Haynes, Michael, N.O.	77	985	12.8	178	5
Centers, Larry, Ari.	77	647	8.4	36	2
Elard, Henry, Wash.	74	1397	18.9	173	6
Moore, Herman, Det.	72	1173	16.3	151	11
Graham, Jeff, Chi.	68	944	13.9	176	4
Sanders, Ricky, Atl.	67	599	8.9	28	1
Watters, Ricky, S.F.	66	719	10.9	165	5
Williams, Calvin, Phil.	58	813	14.0	53	3
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	58	648	11.2	35	4
Bailey, Johnny, Rams	58	516	8.9	28	0
Perriman, Brett, Det.	56	761	13.6	39	4
Sherrard, Mike, Giants	53	825	15.6	55	6
Proehl, Ricky, Ari.	51	651	12.8	63	5
Ervin, Ricky, Wash.	51	293	5.7	21	1
Clark, Gary, Ari.	50	771	15.4	45	1
Walker, Herschel, Phil.	50	500	10.0	93	2
Smith, Emmitt, Dall.	50	341	6.8	68	1
Small, Torrance, N.O.	49	719	14.7	175	5
Jones, Brent, S.F.	49	670	13.7	169	9
Novacek, Jay, Dall.	47	475	10.1	27	2

Anderson, Willie, Rams	46	945	20.5	172	5
Dawsey, Lawrence, T.B.	46	673	14.6	46	1
Emanuel, Bert, Atl.	46	649	14.1	185	4
Ismail, Qadry, Minn.	45	696	15.5	165	5
Hester, Jessie, Rams	45	644	14.3	41	3
Lee, Amp, Minn.	45	368	8.2	35	2
Brown, Derek, N.O.	44	428	9.7	37	1
Johnston, Daryl, Dall.	44	325	7.4	24	2
Sanders, Barry, Det.	44	283	6.4	22	1
Calloway, Chris, Giants	43	666	15.5	151	2
Joseph, James, Phil.	43	344	8.0	135	2
Taylor, John, S.F.	41	531	13.0	35	5
Smith, Irv, N.O.	41	330	8.0	19	3
Howard, Desmond, Wash.	40	727	18.2	181	5
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	39	546	14.0	185	2
Harris, Raymond, Chi.	39	236	6.1	18	0
Hill, Randal, Ari.	38	544	14.3	51	0
Walls, Wesley, N.O.	38	406	10.7	31	4
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B.	37	438	11.8	32	5
Jordan, Andrew, Minn.	35	336	9.6	25	0
Cobb, Reggie, G.B.	35	299	8.5	137	1
Harper, Alvin, Dall.	33	821	24.9	90	8
Cooper, Adrian, Minn.	32	363	11.3	34	0
Heyward, Craig, Atl.	32	335	10.5	34	1
Meggett, David, Giants	32	293	9.2	34	0
Drayton, Troy, Rams	32	276	8.6	122	6
Wilson, Charles, T.B.	31	652	21.0	171	6
West, Ed, G.B.	31	377	12.2	26	2
Cross, Howard, Giants	31	364	11.7	40	4
Beltis, Jerome, Rams	31	293	9.5	34	1
Matthews, Aubrey, Det.	29	359	12.4	33	3
McDowell, Anthony, T.B.	29	193	6.7	19	1
Morgan, Anthony, G.B.	28	397	14.2	147	4
Tillman, Lewis, Chi.	27	222	8.2	39	0
Harris, Jackie, T.B.	26	337	13.0	148	3
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	26	236	9.1	146	1
Waddle, Tom, Chi.	25	244	9.8	22	1
Green, Robert, Chi.	24	199	8.3	139	2

Kinchen, Todd, Rams	23	352	15.3	43	3
Armstrong, Tyji, T.B.	22	265	12.0	29	1
Rhett, Erict, T.B.	22	119	5.4	12	0
Singleton, Nate, S.F.	21	294	14.0	143	2
Bruce, Isaac, Rams	21	272	13.0	134	3
Cook, Marv, Chi.	21	212	10.1	34	1
Johnson, Maurice, Phil.	21	204	9.7	22	2
Bailey, Victor, Phil.	20	311	15.6	61	1
Pierce, Aaron, Giants	20	214	10.7	29	4
Winans, Tydus, Wash.	19	344	18.1	51	2
Floyd, William, S.F.	19	145	7.6	15	0
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil.	18	137	7.6	29	0
Copeland, Horace, T.B.	17	308	18.1	65	0
Bavaro, Mark, Phil.	17	215	12.6	127	3
Ware, Derek, Ari.	17	171	10.1	33	1
Holman, Rodney, Det.	17	163	9.6	18	0
Allen, Terry, Minn.	17	148	8.7	31	0
Marshall, Arthur, Giants	16	219	13.7	34	0
Griffith, Howard, Rams	16	113	7.1	13	1
Pegram, Eric, Atl.	16	99	6.2	28	0
Logan, Marc, S.F.	16	97	6.1	15	1
Horton, Ethan, Wash.	15	157	10.5	20	3
Smith, Cedric, Wash.	15	118	7.9	28	1
Smith, Robert, Minn.	15	105	7.0	15	0
Reeves, Bryan, Ari.	14	202	14.4	33	1
Chmura, Mark, G.B.	14	165	11.8	27	0
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	14	103	7.4	17	0
Williams, Kevin, Dall.	13	181	13.9	29	0
Johnson, LeShon, G.B.	13	168	12.9	33	0
Gedney, Chris, Chi.	13	157	12.1	137	3
Popson, Ted, S.F.	13	141	10.8	24	0
Ned, Derrick, N.O.	13	86	6.6	19	0
Hoge, Merrill, Chi.	13	79	6.1	11	0
Brooks, Reggie, Wash.	13	68	5.2	16	0
Fann, Chad, Ari.	12	96	8.0	16	0
McCaffrey, Ed, S.F.	11	131	11.9	32	2
Wetnight, Ryan, Chi.	11	104	9.5	19	1
Workman, Vince, T.B.	11	82	7.5	23	0



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Jennings, Keith, Chi.	11	75	6.8	123	3
Hall, Ron, Det.	10	106	10.6	18	0
Rasheed, Kenyon, Giants	10	97	9.7	22	0
Muster, Brad, N.O.	10	88	8.8	21	0
Green, Willie, T.B.	9	150	16.7	28	0
Harris, Leonard, Atl.	9	113	12.6	26	0

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Number: 14, Dick Lane, LA (1952)

Yards: 303, Deion Sanders, San Francisco (1994)

Longest return TD: 102 yds, Jim Smith, Detroit (1949)
102 yds, Erich Barnes, NY (1961)

TDs: 4, Eric Allen, Philadelphia (1993)

3 OR MORE	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Williams, Aeneas, Ari.	9	89	9.9	43	0
Hanks, Merton, S.F.	7	93	13.3	38	0
Sanders, Deion, S.F.	6	303	50.5	193	3
Jackson, Greg, Phil.	6	86	14.3	155	1
Clark, Vinnie, Atl.-N.O.	5	149	29.8	74	0
Woodson, Darren, Dall.	5	140	28.0	194	1
Washington, James, Dall.	5	43	8.6	25	0
Buckley, Terrell, G.B.	5	38	7.6	26	0
Woolford, Donnell, Chi.	5	30	6.0	25	0
Spencer, Jimmy, N.O.	5	24	4.8	11	0
Johnson, D.J., Atl.	5	0	0.0	0	0
Collins, Andre, Wash.	4	150	37.5	192	2
Parker, Anthony, Minn.	4	99	24.8	144	2
Glenn, Vencie, Minn.	4	55	13.8	32	0
Williams, James, Ari.	4	48	12.0	29	0
Zordich, Michael, Phil.	4	39	9.8	118	1
Massey, Robert, Det.	4	25	6.3	17	0
Brown, Larry, Dall.	4	21	5.3	14	0
Washington, Dewayne, Minn.	3	135	45.0	181	2
Walker, Darnell, Atl.	3	105	35.0	144	1
Booty, John, Giants	3	95	31.7	36	0
Butler, Leroy, G.B.	3	68	22.7	51	0
Pope, Marquez, Rams	3	66	22.0	51	0
Hoage, Terry, Ari.	3	64	21.3	41	0
Allen, Eric, Phil.	3	61	20.3	33	0
Carter, Tom, Wash.	3	58	19.3	40	0
Clay, Willie, Det.	3	54	18.0	128	1
Paup, Bryce, G.B.	3	47	15.7	30	1
Henley, Darryl, Rams	3	46	15.3	23	0
Bayless, Martin, Wash.	3	38	12.7	19	0
Teague, George, G.B.	3	33	11.0	16	0
Green, Darrell, Wash.	3	32	10.7	127	1
Ross, Kevin, Atl.	3	26	8.7	16	0
Del Rio, Jack, Minn.	3	5	1.7	5	0
Sparks, Phillip, Giants	3	4	1.3	4	0
Joyner, Seth, Ari.	3	2	0.7	2	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 63, Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans (1994)

Yards: 1,556, Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans (1994)

Longest for TD: 106 yds, Al Carmichael,
Green Bay (1956)

106 yds, Roy Green, St. Louis (1979)

TDs: 4, Travis Williams, Green Bay (1967)
4, Cecil Turner, Chicago (1970)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Gray, Mel, Det.	45	1276	28.4	1102	3
Walker, Herschel, Phil.	21	581	27.7	194	1
Williams, Kevin, Dall.	43	1148	26.7	187	1
Mitchell, Brian, Wash.	58	1478	25.5	86	0
Lewis, Nate, Chi.	35	874	25.0	55	0
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	63	1556	24.7	198	2
Kinchen, Todd, Rams	21	510	24.3	46	0
Verdin, Clarence, Atl.	44	1026	23.3	69	0
Lang, David, Rams	27	626	23.2	57	0
Ismail, Darryl, Minn.	35	807	23.1	61	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	48	1105	23.0	196	1
Harris, Corey, G.B.	29	618	21.3	59	0
Turner, Vernon, T.B.	43	886	20.6	77	0
Hebron, Vaughn, Phil.	22	443	20.1	33	0
Levy, Charles, Ari.	26	513	19.7	31	0
Lewis, Thomas, Giants	26	509	19.6	36	0
Meggett, David, Giants	29	548	18.9	30	0

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AFC STATISTICS

RECORDS

Points: 155, Gino Cappelletti, Boston (1964)
Touchdowns: 23, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1975)
Field Goals: 35, Jeff Jaeger, Los Angeles (1993)
Extra Points: 66, Uwe von Schamann, Miami (1984)

SCORING

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	XP	XPA	2PT	FG	FGA	SAF	POINTS
Dolphins	45	13	31	1	35	35	12	24	31	0	401
Chargers	40	13	20	7	33	33	6	34	38	0	387
Broncos	37	19	18	0	29	29	6	30	37	0	353
Patriots	39	12	25	2	36	36	0	27	35	0	351
Browns	37	12	20	5	32	32	8	26	28	0	348
Bills	38	14	23	1	38	38	0	24	28	1	340
Chiefs	34	12	20	2	30	30	6	25	30	2	325
Steelers	35	15	17	3	32	32	2	24	29	0	318
Colts	37	15	15	7	37	37	0	16	24	0	307
L.A. Raiders	34	7	22	5	31	31	2	22	28	0	305
Seahawks	32	16	13	3	25	26	8	20	24	1	295
Bengals	27	5	21	1	24	25	4	28	33	1	280
N.Y. Jets	29	8	18	3	26	27	4	20	23	0	268
Oilers	25	10	13	2	18	18	8	16	20	1	234

KICKERS

	XP	XPA	FG	FGA	PTS
Carney, John, S.D.	33	33	34	38	135
Elam, Jason, Den.	29	29	30	37	119
Bahr, Matt, N.E.	36	36	27	34	117
Christie, Steve, Buf.	38	38	24	28	110
Stover, Matt, Cle.	32	32	26	28	110
Pelfrey, Doug, Cin.	24	25	28	33	108
Stoyanovich, Pete, Mia.	35	35	24	31	107
Elliott, Lin, K.C.	30	30	25	30	105
Anderson, Gary, Pit.	32	32	24	29	104
Jaeger, Jeff, Raiders	31	31	22	28	97
Lowery, Nick, Jets	26	27	20	23	86
Biasucci, Dean, Ind.	37	37	16	24	85
Kasay, John, Sea.	25	26	20	24	85
Del Greco, Al, Hou.	18	18	16	20	66
O'Neill, Pat, N.E.	0	0	0	1	0

NON-KICKERS

	TD	TDR	TDP	TDM	PTS
Faulk, Marshall, Ind.	12	11	1	0	72
Means, Natrone, S.D.	12	12	0	0	72
Warren, Chris, Sea.	11	9	2	0	70
Pickens, Carl, Cin.	11	0	11	0	66
Brown, Tim, Raiders	9	0	9	0	54
Hoard, Leroy, Cle.	9	5	4	0	54
Russell, Leonard, Den.	9	9	0	0	54
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	9	7	2	0	54
Fryar, Irving, Mia.	7	0	7	0	50
Butts, Marion, N.E.	8	8	0	0	48
Jeffries, Haywood, Hou.	6	0	6	0	48
Reed, Andre, Buf.	8	0	8	0	48
Allen, Marcus, K.C.	7	7	0	0	46
Jackson, Keith, Mia.	7	0	7	0	46
Parmalee, Bernie, Mia.	7	6	1	0	46
Williams, Harvey, Raiders	7	4	3	0	46
Moore, Rob, Jets	6	0	6	0	44

Byars, Keith, Mia.	7	2	5	0	42
Coates, Ben, N.E.	7	0	7	0	42
Martin, Tony, S.D.	7	0	7	0	42
Metcalfe, Eric, Cle.	7	2	3	2	42
Morris, Byron, Pit.	7	7	0	0	42
Thompson, Leroy, N.E.	7	2	5	0	42
Carrier, Mark, Cle.	6	1	5	0	36
Ingram, Mark, Mia.	6	0	6	0	36
Seay, Mark, S.D.	6	0	6	0	36
Turner, Floyd, Ind.	6	0	6	0	36
Davis, Willie, K.C.	5	0	5	0	34
Miller, Anthony, Den.	5	0	5	0	34
Sharpe, Shannon, Den.	4	0	4	0	32
Brisby, Vincent, N.E.	5	0	5	0	30
Brown, Gary, Hou.	5	4	1	0	30
Dawkins, Sean, Ind.	5	0	5	0	30
Foster, Barry, Pit.	5	5	0	0	30
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders	5	0	5	0	30
Johnson, Johnny, Jets	5	3	2	0	30
Metzelaars, Pete, Buf.	5	0	5	0	30
Scott, Darnay, Cin.	5	0	5	0	30
Birden, J.J., K.C.	4	0	4	0	28
Blades, Brian, Sea.	4	0	4	0	28
Vaughn, Jon, Sea-K.C.	4	1	1	2	28
Baxter, Brad, Jets	4	4	0	0	24
Beebe, Don, Buf.	4	0	4	0	24
Elway, John, Den.	4	4	0	0	24
Gardner, Carwell, Buf.	4	4	0	0	24
Green, Eric, Pit.	4	0	4	0	24
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	2	1	1	0	24
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	4	1	3	0	24
Mitchell, Johnny, Jets	4	0	4	0	24
Thigpen, Yancey, Pit.	4	0	4	0	24
White, Lorenzo, Hou.	4	3	1	0	24
Anders, Kimble, K.C.	3	2	1	0	18
Buchanan, Ray, Ind.	3	0	0	3	18
Clark, Derrick, Den.	3	3	0	0	18
Crittenden, Ray, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D.	3	0	3	0	18

Johnson, Charles, Pit.	3	0	3	0	18
Majkowski, Don, Ind.	3	3	0	0	18
McDaniel, Terry, Raiders	3	0	0	3	18
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	3	0	3	0	18
Monk, Art, Jets	3	0	3	0	18
Smith, Steve, Sea.	3	2	1	0	18
Timpson, Michael, N.E.	3	0	3	0	18
Turner, Kevin, N.E.	3	1	2	0	18
Williams, John L., Pit.	3	1	2	0	18
Alexander, Derrick, Cle.	2	0	2	0	16
Broussard, Steve, Cin.	2	2	0	0	16
Kirby, Terry, Mia.	2	2	0	0	16
Anderson, Richie, Jets	2	1	1	0	12
Bennett, Donnell, K.C.	2	2	0	0	12
Brooks, Bill, Buf.	2	0	2	0	12
Byner, Earnest, Cle.	2	2	0	0	12
Cash, Keith, K.C.	2	0	2	0	12
Coleman, Andre, S.D.	2	0	0	2	12
Davis, Kenneth, Buf.	2	2	0	0	12
Dawson, Lake, K.C.	2	0	2	0	12
Evans, Jerry, Den.	2	0	2	0	12
Fenner, Derrick, Cin.	2	1	1	0	12
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	2	0	1	1	12
Glover, Andrew, Raiders	2	0	2	0	12
Gordon, Darrien, S.D.	2	0	0	2	12
Green, Harold, Cin.	2	1	1	0	12
Hastings, Andre, Pit.	2	0	2	0	12
Hostetler, Jeff, Raiders	2	2	0	0	12
Jackson, Michael, Cle.	2	0	2	0	12
Johnson, Tracy, Sea.	2	2	0	0	12
Lewis, Mo, Jets	2	0	0	2	12
McAfee, Fred, Ari-Pit.	2	2	0	0	12
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind.	2	1	1	0	12
Pupunu, Alfred, S.D.	2	0	2	0	12
Reynolds, Ricky, N.E.	2	0	0	2	12
Richard, Stanley, S.D.	2	0	0	2	12
Rivers, Reggie, Den.	2	2	0	0	12
Slaughter, Webster, Hou.	2	0	2	0	12
Spikes, Irving, Mia.	2	2	0	0	12
Strong, Mack, Sea.	2	2	0	0	12
Testaverde, Vinny, Cle.	2	2	0	0	12
Tolliver, Billy Joe, Hou.	2	2	0	0	12
Tupa, Tom, Cle.	0	0	0	0	12
Valerio, Joe, K.C.	2	0	2	0	12
Walker, Derrick, K.C.	2	0	2	0	12
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	2	0	0	2	12
Wright, Alexander, Raiders	2	0	2	0	12
Blake, Jeff, Cin.	1	1	0	0	10
Baldwin, Randy, Cle.	1	0	0	1	6
Bates, Michael, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Baty, Greg, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Baxter, Fred, Jets	1	0	1	0	6
Bennett, Tony, Ind.	1	0	0	1	6
Brewer, Dewell, Ind.	1	0	0	1	6
Campbell, Jeff, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Carter, Pat, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Cash, Kerry, Ind.	1	0	1	0	6
Coleman, Pat, Hou.	1	0	1	0	6
Collins, Mark, K.C.	1	0	0	1	6
Copeland, Russell, Buf.	1	0	1	0	6
Coryatt, Quentin, Ind.	1	0	0	1	6
Cothran, Jeff, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
Dishman, Cris, Hou.	1	0	0	1	6
Green, Paul, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Greene, Tracy, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6



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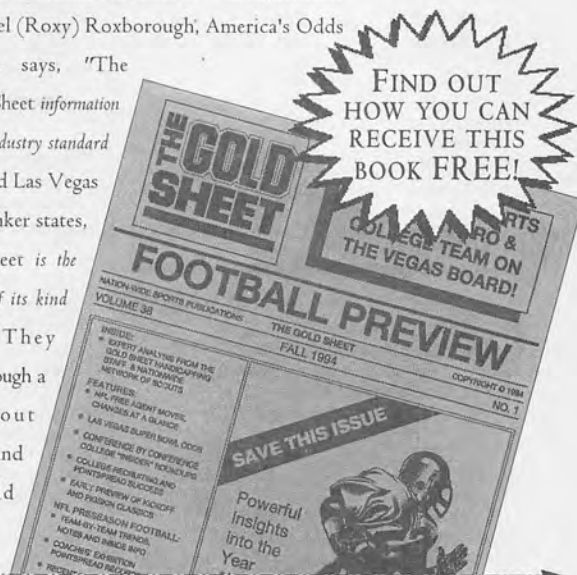
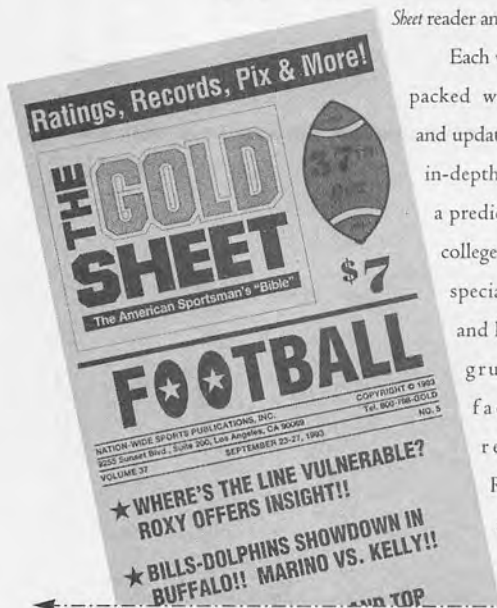
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Hartley, Frank, Cle.	1	0	1	0	6
Hayes, Jonathan, Pit.	1	0	1	0	6
Hill, Greg, K.C.	1	1	0	0	6
Hill, Travis, Cle.	1	0	0	1	6
Humphrey, Ronald, Ind.	1	0	0	1	6
Jackson, Mark, Giants-Ind.	1	0	1	0	6
Junkin, Trey, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Kelly, Jim, Buf.	1	1	0	0	6
Kinchen, Brian, Cle.	1	0	1	0	6
Lodish, Mike, Buf.	1	0	0	1	6
Marino, Dan, Mia.	1	1	0	0	6
Martin, Eric, K.C.	1	0	1	0	6
Martin, Kelvin, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders	1	1	0	0	6
McGee, Tim, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
McGee, Tony, Cin.	1	0	1	0	6
McKnight, James, Sea.	1	0	1	0	6
Miller, Scott, Mia.	1	0	1	0	6
Mills, Ernie, Pit.	1	0	1	0	6
Montgomery, Tyrone, Raiders	1	0	1	0	6
O'Donnell, Neil, Pit.	1	1	0	0	6
Pritchard, Mike, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Reeves, Walter, Cle.	1	0	1	0	6
Richardson, Bucky, Hou.	1	1	0	0	6
Russell, Derek, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Sawyer, Corey, Cin.	1	0	0	1	6
Smith, Anthony, Raiders	1	0	0	1	6
Tillman, Cedric, Den.	1	0	1	0	6
Turner, Eric, Cle.	1	0	0	1	6
Turner, Marcus, Jets	1	0	0	1	6
Turner, Nate, Buf.	1	0	1	0	6
Vanhorse, Sean, S.D.	1	0	0	1	6
Vardell, Tommy, Cle.	1	0	1	0	6
Vincent, Troy, Mia.	1	0	0	1	6
Washington, Lionel, Raiders	1	0	0	1	6
Watters, Orlando, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Williams, Gerald, Pit.	1	0	0	1	6
Wooden, Terry, Sea.	1	0	0	1	6
Yarborough, Ryan, Jets	1	0	1	0	6
Young, Duane, S.D.	1	0	1	0	6
Brown, Reggie, Hou.	0	0	0	0	4
Craver, Aaron, Mia.	0	0	0	0	4
Stone, Dwight, Pit.	0	0	0	0	4
Tuten, Rick, Sea.	0	0	0	0	4
Edwards, Antonio, Sea.	0	0	0	0	*2
Lathon, Lamar, Hou.	0	0	0	0	*2
Thomas, Derrick, K.C.	0	0	0	0	*2
Williams, Alfred, Cin.	0	0	0	0	*2

* Safety

• Team safeties: Bills, Chiefs

RUSHING

RECORDS

Carries: 390, Barry Foster, Pittsburgh (1992)
Yards: 2,003, O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (1973)
TDs: 19, Earl Campbell, Houston (1979)
19, Chuck Muncie, San Diego (1981)

	ATT	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Warren, Chris, Sea.	333	1545	4.6	41	9
Means, Natrone, S.D.	343	1350	3.9	25	12
Faulk, Marshall, Ind.	314	1282	4.1	52	11
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	287	1093	3.8	29	7
Williams, Harvey, Raiders	282	983	3.5	28	4
Johnson, Johnny, Jets	240	931	3.9	90	3
Hoard, Leroy, Cle.	209	890	4.3	39	5
Parmalee, Bernie, Mia.	216	868	4.0	147	6
Foster, Barry, Pit.	216	851	3.9	129	5
Morris, Byron, Pit.	198	836	4.2	20	7
White, Lorenzo, Hou.	191	757	4.0	33	3
Allen, Marcus, K.C.	189	709	3.8	136	7
Bulls, Marion, N.E.	243	703	2.9	26	8
Brown, Gary, Hou.	169	648	3.8	18	4
Russell, Leonard, Den.	190	620	3.3	122	9
Hill, Greg, K.C.	141	574	4.1	20	1
Fenner, Derrick, Cin.	141	468	3.3	21	1
Broussard, Steve, Cin.	94	403	4.3	137	2
Davis, Kenneth, Buf.	91	381	4.2	60	2
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind.	77	336	4.4	52	1
Metcalfe, Eric, Cle.	93	329	3.5	137	2
Williams, John L., Pit.	68	317	4.7	23	1
Thompson, Leroy, N.E.	102	312	3.1	13	2
Spikes, Irving, Mia.	70	312	4.5	40	2
Bieniemy, Eric, S.D.	73	295	4.0	36	0

PASSING

RECORDS

Completions: 404, Warren Moon, Houston (1991)
Touchdowns: 48, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)
Yards: 5,084, Dan Marino, Miami (1984)
Longest for TD: 99 yards, Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch, Los Angeles (1983) 99 yards, Stan Humphries to Tony Martin, San Diego (1994)

	ATT	COMP	PCT	YDS	AVG	TD	PCT	TD	LONG	INT	PCT	INT	SACK	YDS	LOST	RATING
Marino, Dan, Mia.	615	385	62.6	4453	7.24	30	4.9	164	17	2.8	17	113				89.2
Elway, John, Den.	494	307	62.1	3490	7.06	16	3.2	63	10	2.0	46	303				85.7
Kelly, Jim, Buf.	448	285	63.6	3114	6.95	22	4.9	183	17	3.8	34	244				84.6
Montana, Joe, K.C.	493	299	60.6	3283	6.66	16	3.2	157	9	1.8	19	132				83.6
Humphries, Stan, S.D.	453	264	58.3	3209	7.08	17	3.8	199	12	2.6	25	223				81.6
Hostetler, Jeff, Raiders	455	263	57.8	3334	7.33	20	4.4	177	16	3.5	41	232				80.8
O'Donnell, Neil, Pit.	370	212	57.3	2443	6.60	13	3.5	160	9	2.4	35	250				78.9
Esiason, Boomer, Jets	440	255	58.0	2782	6.32	17	3.9	69	13	3.0	19	134				77.3
Blake, Jeff, Cin.	306	156	51.0	2154	7.04	14	4.6	76	9	2.9	19	120				76.9
Bledsoe, Drew, N.E.	691	400	57.9	4555	6.59	25	3.6	162	27	3.9	22	139				73.6
Testaverde, Vinny, Cle.	376	207	55.1	2575	6.85	16	4.3	181	18	4.8	12	83				70.7
Mirer, Rick, Sea.	381	195	51.2	2151	5.65	11	2.9	51	7	1.8	27	145				70.2
Klingler, David, Cin.	231	131	56.7	1327	5.74	6	2.6	56	9	3.9	24	165				65.7
Tolliver, Billy, Joe Hou.	240	121	50.4	1287	5.36	6	2.5	44	7	2.9	27	166				62.6

NON-QUALIFIERS (10 or more attempts)

Gelbaugh, Stan, Sea.	11	7	63.6	80	7.27	1	9.1	125	0	0.0	0	0	115.7
Tomczak, Mike, Pit.	93	54	58.1	804	8.65	4	4.3	184	0	0.0	4	33	100.8
Evans, Vince, Raiders	33	18	54.5	222	6.73	2	6.1	165	0	0.0	9	57	95.8
Gilbert, Gale, S.D.	67	41	61.2	410	6.12	3	4.5	26	1	1.5	4	28	87.3
Harbaugh, Jim, Ind.	202	125	61.9	1440	7.13	9	4.5	185	6	3.0	17	72	85.8
Millen, Hugh, Den.	131	81	61.8	893	6.82	2	1.5	76	3	2.3	9	63	77.6
Bono, Steve, K.C.	117	66	56.4	796	6.80	4	3.4	162	4	3.4	0	0	74.6
Kosar, Bernie, Mia.	12	7	58.3	80	6.67	1	8.3	22	1	8.3	0	0	71.5
Richardson, Bucky, Hou.	181	94	51.9	1202	6.64	6	3.3	176	6	3.3	23	136	70.3
Majkowski, Don, Ind.	152	84	55.3	1010	6.64	6	3.9	29	7	4.6	9	76	69.8
Rypien, Mark, Cle.	128	59	46.1	694	5.42	4	3.1	43	3	2.3	2	11	63.7
Reich, Frank, Buf.	93	56	60.2	568	6.11	1	1.1	47	4	4.3	7	57	63.4
McGwire, Dan, Sea.	105	51	48.6	578	5.50	1	1.0	36	2	1.9	13	96	60.7
Trudeau, Jack, Jets	91	50	54.9	496	5.45	1	1.1	124	4	4.4	9	52	55.9
Carlson, Cody, Hou.	132	59	44.7	727	5.51	1	0.8	81	4	3.0	15	115	52.2
Nagle, Browning, Ind.	21	8	38.1	69	3.29	0	0.0	23	1	4.8	2	18	27.7

PUNTING

RECORDS

Number: 108, Rick Tuten, Seattle (1992)
Average: 46.9 yards, Greg Montgomery, Houston (1992)
Longest: 98 yards, Steve O'Neal, New York (1969)

	NO	YARDS	LONG	AVG	TB	BLK	OPP	RET	RET	YDS	IN 20	NET	AVG
Gossett, Jeff, Raiders	77	3377	65	43.9	14	0	38	366	19	35.5			
Johnson, Lee, Cin.	79	3461	64	43.8	9	1	43	459	19	35.3			
Tuten, Rick, Sea	91	3905	64	42.9	7	0	43	426	33	36.7			
Rouen, Tom, Den	76	3258	59	42.9	8	0	39	275	23	37.1			
Camarrillo, Rich, Hou.	96	4115	58	42.9	9	0	50	438	34	36.4			
Stark, Rohn, Ind.	73	3092	60	42.4	10	1	40	366	22	34.1			
Aguilar, Louie, K.C.	85	3582	61	42.1	7	0	50	506	15	34.5			
Hansen, Brian, Jets	84	3534	64	42.1	12	0	38	260	25	36.1			
Mohr, Chris, Buf.	67	2799	71	41.8	3	0	37	324	13	36.0			
Wagner, Bryan, S.D.	65	2705	59	41.6	3	0	38	348	20	35.3			
O'Neill, Pat, N.E.	69	2841	67	41.2	6	0	34	260	24	35.7			
Tupa, Tom, Cle.	80	3211	65	40.1	8	0	38	220	28	35.4			
Royals, Mark, Pit.	97	3849	64	39.7	6	0	39	263	35	35.7			
Arnold, Jim, Mia	46	1810	53	39.3	4	0	26	189	14	33.5			

NON-QUALIFIERS

Kidd, John, S.D.-Mia.	21	848	58	40.4	4	0	6	135	3	30.1
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Elway, John, Den.	58	235	4.1	22	4
Kirby, Terry, Mia.	60	233	3.9	30	2
Anders, Kimble, K.C.	62	231	3.7	19	2
Harbaugh, Jim, Ind.	39	223	5.7	41	0
Green, Harold, Cin.	76	223	2.9	22	1
Byner, Earnest, Cle.	75	219	2.9	15	2
Richardson, Bucky, Hou.	30	217	7.2	18	1
Anderson, Richie, Jets	43	207	4.8	55	1
Blake, Jeff, Cin.	37	204	5.5	16	1
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	58	201	3.5	20	1
Bennett, Donnell, K.C.	46	178	3.9	17	2
Baxter, Brad, Jets	60	170	2.8	13	4
Clark, Derrick, Den.	56	168	3.0	12	3
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	33	160	4.8	19	0
Hostetler, Jeff, Raiders	46	159	3.5	14	2
Mirer, Rick, Sea.	34	153	4.5	14	0
Gardner, Carwell, Buf.	41	135	3.3	13	4
Rathman, Tom, Raiders	28	118	4.2	14	0
Strong, Mack, Sea.	27	114	4.2	14	2
Turner, Kevin, N.E.	36	111	3.1	13	1
Scott, Darnay, Cin.	10	106	10.6	23	0
Montgomery, Tyrone, Raiders	36	97	2.7	15	0
Vaughn, Jon, Sea-K.C.	27	96	3.6	16	1
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	25	94	3.8	115	1
Jones, Calvin, Raiders	22	93	4.2	10	0
Bernstine, Rod, Den.	17	91	5.4	24	0
Reed, Andre, Buf.	10	87	8.7	20	0
Gash, Sam, N.E.	30	86	2.9	10	0
Klingler, David, Cin.	17	85	5.0	15	0
Humphrey, Ronald, Ind.	18	85	4.7	27	0

Cothran, Jeff, Cin.	26	85	3.3	13	0
Rivers, Reggie, Den.	43	83	1.9	11	2
Warren, Lamont, Ind.	18	80	4.4	34	0
Smith, Steve, Sea.	26	80	3.1	12	2
O'Donnell, Neil, Pit.	31	80	2.6	18	1
Baldwin, Randy, Cle.	23	78	3.4	16	0
Kelly, Jim, Buf.	25	77	3.1	18	1
Byars, Keith, Mia.	19	64	3.4	12	2
Culver, Rodney, S.D.	6	63	7.9	22	0
Eslason, Boomer, Jets	28	59	2.1	15	0
Millen, Hugh, Den.	5	57	11.4	24	0
Jourdain, Yonel, Buf.	17	56	3.3	16	0
McAfee, Fred, Ari-Pit.	18	51	2.8	13	2
Vardell, Tommy, Cle.	15	48	3.2	9	0
Johnson, Tracy, Sea.	12	44	3.7	14	2
Craver, Aaron, Mia.	6	43	7.2	19	0
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D.	3	40	13.3	22	0
Bledsoe, Drew, N.E.	44	40	0.9	7	0
Alexander, Derrick, Cle.	4	38	9.5	25	0
Tolliver, Billy Joe, Hou.	12	37	3.1	10	2
Testaverde, Vinny, Cle.	21	37	1.8	12	2
Majkowski, Don, Ind.	24	34	1.4	10	3
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	5	32	6.4	12	0
Blades, Brian, Sea.	2	32	16.0	40	0
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders	4	31	7.8	13	0
Trudeau, Jack, Jets	6	30	5.0	15	0
Evans, Vince, Raiders	6	24	4.0	23	0
Dawson, Lake, K.C.	3	24	8.0	13	0
Tomczak, Mike, Pit.	4	22	5.5	13	0
Humphries, Stan, S.D.	19	19	1.0	8	0
Mills, Ernie, Pit.	3	18	6.0	17	0
Montana, Joe, K.C.	18	17	0.9	13	0
Kosar, Bernie, Mia.	1	17	17.0	17	0
Carlson, Cody, Hou.	10	17	1.7	6	0
Saxon, James, Mia.	8	16	2.0	7	0
Warren, Terrence, Sea.	3	15	5.0	11	0
Timpson, Michael, N.E.	2	14	7.0	10	0
Carrier, Mark, Cle.	1	14	14.0	114	1
Tillman, Spencer, Hou.	2	12	6.0	9	0
Nagle, Browning, Ind.	1	12	12.0	12	0
Johnson, Anthony, Jets	5	12	2.4	5	0
Toner, Ed, Ind.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Gary, Cleveland, Mia.	7	11	1.6	4	0
Beebe, Don, Buf.	2	11	5.5	6	0
Gelbaugh, Stan, Sea.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Stone, Dwight, Pit.	2	7	3.5	4	0
Russell, Derek, Den.	1	6	6.0	6	0
Campbell, Jeff, Den.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Bryant, Beno, Sea.	1	6	6.0	6	0
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders	3	5	1.7	3	1
Turner, Nate, Buf.	2	4	2.0	4	0
Rypien, Mark, Cle.	7	4	0.6	2	0
Avery, Steve, Pit.	2	4	2.0	5	0
Reich, Frank, Buf.	6	3	0.5	5	0
Miller, Anthony, Den.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Hendrickson, Steve, S.D.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Anderson, Gary, Pit.	1	3	3.0	3	0
Smith, Kevin, Raiders	1	2	2.0	2	0
Coleman, Pat, Hou.	1	2	2.0	2	0

PUNT RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 62, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)

Yards: 692, Fulton Walker, Los Angeles (1985)

Longest for TD: 98 yards, Terance Mathis, New York (1990)

	NO	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Gordon, Darrien, S.D.	36	19	475	13.2	190	2
Brown, Tim, Raiders	40	13	487	12.2	48	0
Sawyer, Corey, Cin.	26	16	307	11.8	182	1
Burris, Jeff, Buf.	32	6	332	10.4	57	0
Melcatt, Eric, Cle.	35	6	348	9.9	192	2
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	41	4	379	9.2	44	0
Hicks, Clifford, Jets	38	5	342	9.0	26	0
Martin, Kelvin, Sea.	33	20	280	8.5	23	0
Brown, Troy, N.E.	24	10	202	8.4	38	0
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	39	9	319	8.2	42	0
Brewer, Dewell, Ind.	42	8	339	8.1	175	1
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	32	15	228	7.1	26	0
Hughes, Danan, K.C.	27	9	192	7.1	43	0
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	37	9	210	5.7	178	1

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PASS RECEIVING

RECORDS

Receptions: 101, Charley Hennigan, Houston (1964)

Yards: 1,746, Charley Hennigan, Houston (1961)

TDs: 18, Mark Clayton, Miami (1984)

4 OR MORE	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Coates, Ben, N.E.	96	1174	12.2	162	7
Reed, Andre, Buf.	90	1303	14.5	183	8
Brown, Tim, Raiders	89	1309	14.7	177	9
Sharpe, Shannon, Den.	87	1010	11.6	44	4
Blades, Brian, Sea.	81	1086	13.4	45	4
Moore, Rob, Jets	78	1010	12.9	141	6
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	77	549	7.1	33	3
Timpson, Michael, N.E.	74	941	12.7	37	3
Fryar, Irving, Mia.	73	1270	17.4	154	7
Pickens, Carl, Cin.	71	1127	15.9	170	11
Slaughter, Webster, Hou.	68	846	12.4	57	2
Jeffries, Haywood, Hou.	68	783	11.5	50	6
Anders, Kimble, K.C.	67	525	7.8	30	1
Thompson, Leroy, N.E.	65	465	7.2	127	5
Miller, Anthony, Den.	60	1107	18.5	76	5
Jackson, Keith, Mia.	59	673	11.4	35	7
Brisby, Vincent, N.E.	58	904	15.6	43	5
Mitchell, Johnny, Jets	58	749	12.9	55	4
Seay, Mark, S.D.	58	645	11.1	149	6
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	58	615	10.6	35	1
Marlin, Kelvin, Sea.	56	681	12.2	32	1
Turner, Floyd, Ind.	52	593	11.4	28	6
Faulk, Marshall, Ind.	52	522	10.0	185	1
Turner, Kevin, N.E.	52	471	9.1	32	2
Davis, Willie, K.C.	51	822	16.1	162	5
Dawkins, Sean, Ind.	51	742	14.5	49	5
Williams, John L., Pit.	51	378	7.4	23	2
Marlin, Tony, S.D.	50	885	17.7	199	7
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	50	349	7.0	28	2
Metzelaars, Pete, Buf.	49	428	8.7	135	5
Byars, Keith, Mia.	49	418	8.5	34	5
Alexander, Derrick, Cle.	48	828	17.3	181	2
Birden, J.J., K.C.	48	637	13.3	44	4
Metcalfe, Eric, Cle.	47	436	9.3	157	3
Williams, Harvey, Raiders	47	391	8.3	127	3
Scott, Darnay, Cin.	46	866	18.8	76	5
Green, Eric, Pit.	46	618	13.4	46	4
Monk, Art, Jets	46	581	12.6	69	3
Hoard, Leroy, Cle.	45	445	9.9	165	4
Ingram, Mark, Mia.	44	506	11.5	164	6
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D.	43	627	14.6	152	3
Brooks, Bill, Buf.	42	482	11.5	32	2
Allen, Marcus, K.C.	42	349	8.3	38	0
Johnson, Johnny, Jets	42	303	7.2	24	2
Warren, Chris, Sea.	41	323	7.9	51	2
Beebe, Don, Buf.	40	527	13.2	172	4
McGee, Tony, Cin.	40	492	12.3	54	1
Means, Natrone, S.D.	39	235	6.0	22	0
Johnson, Charles, Pit.	38	577	15.2	184	3
Russell, Leonard, Den.	38	227	6.0	19	0
Dawson, Lake, K.C.	37	537	14.5	50	2
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	37	488	13.2	30	3
Thigpen, Yancey, Pit.	36	546	15.2	160	4
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	36	521	14.5	176	1
Walker, Derrick, K.C.	36	382	10.6	157	2
Fenner, Derrick, Cin.	36	276	7.7	29	1
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders	34	513	15.1	42	5
Parmalee, Bernie, Mia.	34	249	7.3	22	1
Broussard, Steve, Cin.	34	218	6.4	25	0
Glover, Andrew, Raiders	33	371	11.2	127	2
Green, Paul, Sea.	30	208	6.9	20	1
Carrier, Mark, Cle.	29	452	15.6	43	5
Tillman, Cedric, Den.	28	455	16.3	63	1
Crittenden, Ray, N.E.	28	379	13.5	32	3
Green, Harold, Cin.	27	267	9.9	34	1
Saxon, James, Mia.	27	151	5.6	25	0
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind.	26	251	9.7	30	1
Rathman, Tom, Raiders	26	194	7.5	18	0
Russell, Derek, Den.	25	342	13.7	43	1
Anderson, Richie, Jets	25	212	8.5	127	1
Craver, Aaron, Mia.	24	237	9.9	28	0
Kinchen, Brian, Cle.	24	232	9.7	38	1
Morris, Byron, Pit.	22	204	9.3	49	0
Marlin, Eric, K.C.	21	307	14.6	61	1

Jackson, Michael, Cle.	21	304	14.5	30	2
Copeland, Russell, Buf.	21	255	12.1	35	1
Pupunu, Alfred, S.D.	21	214	10.2	25	2
White, Lorenzo, Hou.	21	188	9.0	41	1
Coleman, Pat, Hou.	20	298	14.9	81	1
Hastings, Andre, Pit.	20	281	14.1	46	2
Thornton, James, Jets	20	171	8.6	25	0
Rivers, Reggie, Den.	20	136	6.8	25	0
Foster, Barry, Pit.	20	124	6.2	27	0
Mills, Ernie, Pit.	19	384	20.2	43	1
Pritchard, Mike, Den.	19	271	14.3	150	1
Cash, Keith, K.C.	19	192	10.1	31	2
Brown, Gary, Hou.	18	194	10.8	24	1
Davis, Kenneth, Buf.	18	82	4.6	12	0
Young, Duane, S.D.	17	217	12.8	31	1
Wright, Alexander, Raiders	16	294	18.4	176	2
Cash, Kerry, Ind.	16	190	11.9	24	1
Vardell, Tommy, Cle.	16	137	8.6	19	1
Hill, Greg, K.C.	16	92	5.8	21	0
Jett, James, Raiders	15	253	16.9	54	0
Williams, Mike, Mia.	15	221	14.7	29	0
Kirby, Terry, Mia.	14	154	11.0	26	0
McGee, Tim, Cin.	13	175	13.5	25	1
Evans, Jerry, Den.	13	127	9.8	120	2
Smith, Steve, Sea.	11	142	12.9	25	1
Mitchell, Shannon, S.D.	11	105	9.5	36	0
Byner, Earnest, Cle.	11	102	9.3	30	0
Gardner, Carwell, Buf.	11	89	8.1	21	0
Carter, Pat, Hou.	11	74	6.7	19	1
Sadowski, Troy, Cin.	11	54	4.9	11	0
McCardell, Keenan, Cle.	10	182	18.2	34	0
Wellman, Gary, Hou.	10	112	11.2	25	0
Johnson, Tracy, Sea.	10	91	9.1	17	0
Jourdain, Yonel, Buf.	10	56	5.6	18	0
Baxter, Brad, Jets	10	40	4.0	7	0
Anderson, Stevie, Jets	9	90	10.0	17	0
Burke, John, N.E.	9	86	9.6	17	0
Bernstine, Rod, Den.	9	70	7.8	16	0
Gash, Sam, N.E.	9	61	6.8	19	0
Butts, Marion, N.E.	9	54	6.0	15	0
Clark, Derrick, Den.	9	47	5.2	10	0
Montgomery, Tyrone, Raiders	8	126	15.8	165	1
Jackson, Mark, Giants-Ind.	8	97	12.1	22	1
McNair, Todd, Hou.	8	78	9.8	21	0
Stone, Dwight, Pit.	7	81	11.6	25	0
Hughes, Darian, K.C.	7	80	11.4	22	0
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	7	76	10.9	20	0
Bennett, Donnell, K.C.	7	53	7.6	15	0
Edmunds, Ferrell, Sea.	7	43	6.1	8	0
Miller, Scott, Mia.	6	94	15.7	27	1
Greene, Tracy, K.C.	6	69	11.5	20	1
Reeves, Walter, Cle.	6	61	10.2	22	1
Yarborough, Ryan, Jets	6	42	7.0	12	1
Bates, Michael, Sea.	5	112	22.4	140	1
Hobbs, Daryl, Raiders	5	52	10.4	14	0
Hayes, Jonathan, Pit.	5	50	10.0	17	1
Bieniemy, Eric, S.D.	5	48	9.6	25	0
Query, Jeff, Cin.	5	44	8.8	14	0
Marrow, Vince, Buf.	5	44	8.8	14	0
Johnson, Anthony, Jets	5	31	6.2	9	0
Thomas, Robb, Sea.	4	70	17.5	35	0
Lewis, Roderick, Hou.	4	48	12.0	19	0
Brown, Reggie, Hou.	4	34	8.5	11	0
Cothran, Jeff, Cin.	4	24	6.0	8	1
Spikes, Irving, Mia.	4	16	4.0	9	0

INTERCEPTIONS

RECORDS

Number: 13, Lester Hayes, Oakland (1980)

Yards: 349, Charley McNeil, San Diego (1961)

Longest for TD: 103 yards, Vencie Glenn, San Diego (1987)

103 yards, Louis Oliver, Miami (1992)

TDs: 4, Ken Houston, Houston (1971)

4, Jim Kearney, Kansas City (1972)

2 OR MORE	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Turner, Eric, Cle.	9	199	22.1	193	1
Buchanan, Ray, Ind.	8	221	27.6	190	3
Perry, Darren, Pit.	7	112	16.0	42	0
McDaniel, Terry, Raiders	7	103	14.7	35	2

Hurst, Maurice, N.E.	7	68	9.7	24	0
Turner, Marcus, Jets	5	155	31.0	190	1
Vincent, Troy, Mia.	5	113	22.6	158	1
Hasty, James, Jets	5	90	18.0	40	0
Lewis, Darryll, Hou.	5	57	11.4	20	0
Richard, Stanley, S.D.	4	224	56.0	199	2
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	4	109	27.3	137	2
Lewis, Mo, Jets	4	106	26.5	167	2
Dishman, Cris, Hou.	4	74	18.5	38	1
Gordon, Darrien, S.D.	4	32	8.0	23	0
Darby, Matt, Buf.	4	20	5.0	20	0
Robertson, Marcus, Hou.	3	90	30.0	41	0
Hunter, Patrick, Sea.	3	85	28.3	51	0
Brown, J.B., Mia.	3	82	27.3	38	0
Wooden, Terry, Sea.	3	78	26.0	169	1
Washington, Lionel, Raiders	3	65	21.7	131	1
Washington, Mickey, Buf.	3	63	21.0	36	0
Tate, David, Ind.	3	51	17.0	30	0
Carrington, Darren, S.D.	3	51	17.0	32	0
Barnett, Harlon, N.E.	3	51	17.0	24	0
Mincy, Charles, K.C.	3	49	16.3	31	0
Walters, Orlando, Sea.	3	39	13.0	135	1
Oliver, Louis, Cin.	3	36	12.0	19	0
Harper, Dwayne, S.D.	3	28	9.3	15	0
Atkins, Gene, Mia.	3	24	8.0	18	0
Brown, Vincent, N.E.	3	22	7.3	12	0
Robinson, Eugene, Sea.	3	18	6.0	18	0
Stewart, Michael, Mia.	3	11	3.7	11	0
Collins, Mark, K.C.	2	83	41.5	178	1
Brim, Mike, Cin.	2	72	36.0	49	0
Vanhorse, Sean, S.D.	2	56	28.0	150	1
Ambrose, Ashley, Ind.	2	50	25.0	42	0
Williams, Darryl, Cin.	2	45	22.5	33	0
Jones, Henry, Buf.	2	45	22.5	45	0
Carter, Dale, K.C.	2	24	12.0	24	0
Burris, Jeff, Buf.	2	24	12.0	24	0
Guyton, Myron, N.E.	2	18	9.0	15	0
Smith, Rod, N.E.	2	10	5.0	10	0
Jones, Rondell, Den.	2	9	4.5	9	0
Jacobs, Tim, Cle.	2	9	4.5	8	0
Patton, Marcus, Buf.	2	8	4.0	8	0
Hilliard, Randy, Den.	2	8	4.0	8	0
Sabb, Dwayne, N.E.	2	6	3.0	5	0
Daniel, Eugene, Ind.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Crockett, Ray, Den.	2	6	3.0	6	0
Braxton, Tyrone, Mia.	2	3	1.5	3	0
Langham, Antonio, Cle.	2	2	1.0	2	0
Griffin, Don, Cle.	2	2	1.0	2	0
White, William, K.C.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Sawyer, Corey, Cin.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Kirkland, Levon, Pit.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Gray, Carlton, Sea.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Beavers, Aubrey, Mia.	2	0	0.0	0	0
Washington, Brian, Jets	2	-3	-1.5	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

RECORDS

Number: 55, Bruce Harper, New York (1978)

55, Deacon Turner, Cincinnati (1979)

55, Bruce Harper, New York (1979)

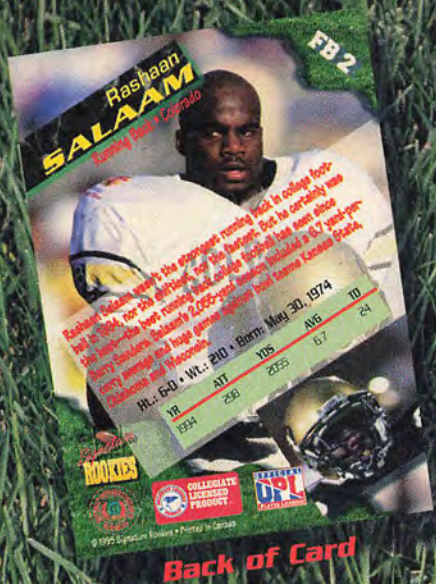
Yards: 1,317, Bobby Janick, Houston (1963)

Longest for TD: 106 yards, Noland Smith,

Kansas City (1967)

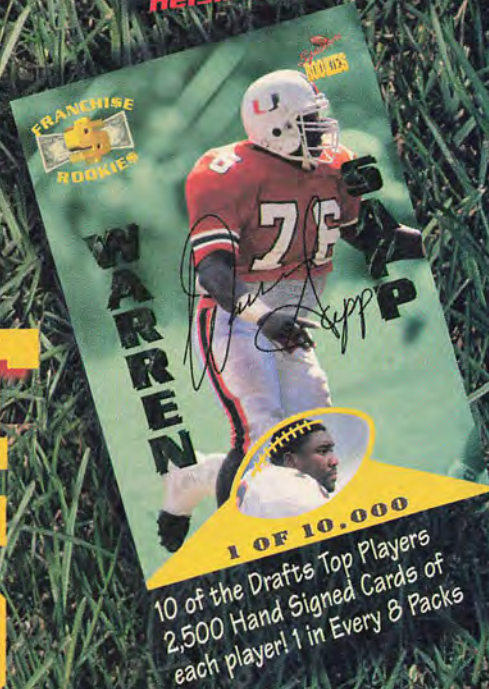
TDs: 3, Raymond Clayborn, New England (1977)

	NO	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD
Baldwin, Randy, Cle.	28	753	26.9	185	1
Coleman, Andre, S.D.	49	1293	26.4	190	2
Vaughn, Jon, Sea-K.C.	33	829	25.1	193	2
ByNotte, Butler, Den.	24	545	22.7	41	0
Dickerson, Ron, K.C.	21	472	22.5	62	0
Humphrey, Ronald, Ind.	35	783	22.4	195	1
Jourdain, Yonel, Buf.	27	601	22.3	42	0
Ball, Eric, Cin.	42	915	21.8	43	0
Glenn, Aaron, Jets	27	582	21.6	45	0
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders	43	923	21.5	51	0
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	37	793	21.4	40	0
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	36	767	21.3	46	0
McNair, Todd, Hou.	23	481	20.9	44	



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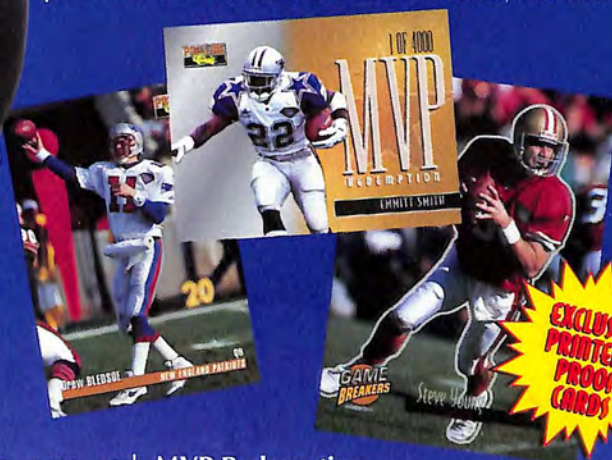
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